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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Sending Comfort

Trump sees off Navy hospital ship bound for NY Page 7



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Donald Trump salutes as the U.S. Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort departs from Norfolk, Va., to assist hospitals in New York responding to the coronavirus outbreak Saturday. Defense Secretary Mark Esper stands to his right.

RELATED STORIES

Commanders issue shelter in place order for U.S. personnel in Japan
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Military cancels major exercise in Philippines over concern for participants, local population
Page 6

New cases — and new restrictions — could jeopardize US military readiness in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — New coronavirus cases on the main U.S. base in South Korea have prompted strict new health measures that could jeopardize military readiness on the peninsula, the commander of U.S. Forces Korea said.

Gen. Robert Abrams said he was willing to take that risk despite the threat from North Korea after three more people tested positive on Camp Humphreys, raising the total number of infections affiliated with USFK to 12.

"This morning we went to bare bones minimum, watch teams only in the headquarters, everybody basically shelter in place, only go out for the essentials," he told Stars and Stripes Friday in an exclusive interview.

The new restrictions were a blow to the military community that already has been largely confined to home or base for more than five weeks as South Korea

SEE NEW ON PAGE X

from front page suffered from an outbreak that began in the southeastern city of Daegu.
"We'll be under these conditions for

Get all the latest news on the coronavirus and the military
[stripes.com/coronavirus](https://www.stripes.com/coronavirus)

US-led forces pull out of 3rd Iraqi base this month

By SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq withdrew on Sunday from a military base in the country's north that nearly launched Washington into an open war with neighboring Iran.

The K1 Air Base is the third site coalition forces have left this month, in line with U.S. plans to consolidate its troops in two locations in Iraq.

Coalition officials said they would still assist Iraqi forces with air support and surveillance, but significantly cut back on training and ground operations, as the limited withdrawal continues.

A rocket attack on the base in late December killed one American contractor and led to a series of tit-for-tat attacks between the U.S. and Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups. The attacks culminated in the U.S.-directed killing of top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and a senior Iraqi militia leader, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Coalition forces handed over the K1 base in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk to Iraq's military, according to a coalition statement. At least \$1.1 million of equipment

was transferred to the Iraqis as 300 coalition personnel departed.

K1 has hosted coalition forces since 2017 to launch operations against the Islamic State group in nearby mountainous areas. Areas south of Kirkuk, and north of neighboring provinces of Diyala, Salahaddin and Nineveh remain hotbeds of ISIS activity.

The stretch of territory is also disputed between the federal Iraqi government and

SEE BASE ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Flash of optimism amid uncertainty on Wall Street

Associated Press

Stocks rallied this week as Washington acted to provide \$2.2 trillion of relief to an economy shocked by the coronavirus outbreak, leaving some on Wall Street cautiously optimistic that the panicky selling that had gripped the market earlier may have come to an end.

Even after a loss Friday, the S&P 500 had its best weekly percentage gain since March 2009. The Dow Jones Industrial Aver-

age posted its biggest weekly rally since 1938. The gains came after two brutal weeks that conjured memories of the market's sell-off in 2008 as the government and the Federal Reserve scrambled to contain the financial crisis.

"The takeaway from this week is the initial down phase has probably run its course," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird. "Investors can get out of the duck-and-cover mode and start to figure out what they need to do. But it doesn't mean that

we've gotten an all-clear signal."

Strategists like Delwiche know the outlook is still uncertain, at least until more progress can be made fighting the pandemic and the number of new cases level off and start dropping.

On Friday, the S&P 500 fell 3.4%, erasing some of the rally from the previous three days. The index still finished with a gain of 10.3% for the week. The Dow closed with a weekly gain of 12.8%, led by a rebound in shares of Boeing.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (March 30)	\$1.07	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9625	
Dollar buys (March 30)	60.8852	Thailand (Baht).....32.60	
British pound (March 30)	\$1.20	Turkey (Lira).....6.4482	
Japanese yen (March 30)	105.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (March 30)	1,186.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate.....3.25	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3767	Discount rate.....0.25	
British pound	\$1.2242	Federal funds market rate.....0.10	
Canada (Dollar)	1.4115	3-month bill.....0.00	
China (Yuan)	7.0959	30-year bond.....1.39	
Denmark (Krone)	6.7943		
Egypt (Pound)	15.7526		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.0982/0.9106		
Hungary (Forint)	7.7518		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5893		
Japan (Yen)	106.48		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3090		
Norway (Krone)	10.9558		
Philippines (Peso)	51.12		
Poland (Zloty)	4.13		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7568		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4343		
South Korea (Won)	1,225.78		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

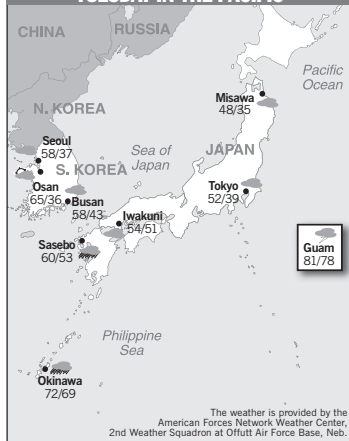
MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY



Matt Burke/Stars and Stripes

A Marine from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit takes part in a raid exercise in February. A panel on Okinawa has recommended speeding up the reduction of U.S. bases.

Okinawa panel calls for reducing US bases, dispersing Marines

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A panel set up by Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki to study U.S. military posture in his prefecture recently recommended that the Japanese government speed up the process of reducing the number of U.S. bases there and disperse Marines throughout the region.

The panel, which includes five security and U.S.-Japan relations experts, was set up in May and presented its findings to Tamaki on Thursday, a prefectural spokesman said.

With China improving its missile capabilities in recent years, the Marines have acknowledged the risk in concentrating their forces in one place, the panel said. It recommended deploying Marines in smaller groups throughout Asia, including to Japan Self-Defense Forces bases

on the main islands of Japan.

The panel also urged the immediate closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which is in a densely packed urban area in central Okinawa.

Tamaki has said he would incorporate those recommendations into prefectural government policy.

The governor was elected in 2018 on a platform opposing the planned relocation of Marine air operations from Futenma to Camp Schwab on the island's remote northeastern coast. A runway is being built there to facilitate that move.

The relocation is part of a larger Asia-Pacific realignment for the Marine Corps, which is years in the making and will see several thousand Marines sent to Guam, Hawaii, the U.S. mainland and a beefed up rotational force in Australia.

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Marines fire Okinawa-based helicopter squadron leader

By Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

The commander of a Marine Corps helicopter squadron on Okinawa was relieved of command Thursday, according to an official statement.

Lt. Col. Andrew Mills lost his job leading Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 "due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability" to command, III Marine Expeditionary Force said Friday. He was fired by Brig. Gen. Chris

McPhillips, commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The squadron, consisting of CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters, is based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on a unit deployment program, the statement said.

Mills, a native of South Carolina and a graduate of the University of South Carolina, was commissioned through Naval ROTC in May 1999, according to his official biography on the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing official website. His record includes service in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, among others.

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Korea: North fires 2 missiles in latest test

By Kim Gamel
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea off its eastern coast Sunday, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of launches this month as the regime flouts concern about the global coronavirus pandemic.

The launch came a week after the North welcomed a letter sent by President Donald Trump offering help in fighting the virus but expressed continued frustration over stalled nuclear talks.

The missiles were launched within a 20-second interval from the eastern city of Wonsan and flew more than 140 miles, with a maximum altitude of nearly 20 miles, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul.

A U.S. surveillance plane, the Navy's EP-3E, was spotted at about 25,000 feet over South Korea on Sunday, the monitoring site Aircraft Spots said in a tweet. It didn't give a specific time.

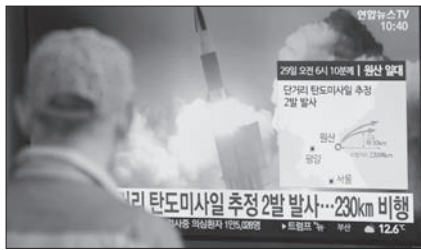
It was the fourth such test in a month as the North continues to develop its weapons program amid stalled nuclear talks with the United States.

North Korea also has conducted artillery drills in what officials have said are part of its annual winter training.

The military activity resumed after the North went lockdown for about 30 days after the virus first appeared in China late last year, said Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

"As evidenced by made-for-TV events, we've seen a beginning of relaxation of some of that," Abrams told Stars and Stripes on Friday, pointing to the artillery drills and previous missile tests. "That'll all end here pretty soon."

"They're at the end of their winter training cycle and they've got to get ready for planting season," he said during the interview at his office on Camp Humphreys. "They've got to feed their people



Ahn Young-joon/AP

A man watches a TV screen showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday. North Korea on Sunday fired two suspected ballistic missiles into the sea, South Korea said.

and their military is a full participant in the spring planting season."

South Korea's military said it was closely monitoring the situation and maintaining a readiness posture.

"Such military actions by North Korea's military are very inappropriate at a time when the world has hit a rough patch due to [the coronavirus]," the joint chiefs said. "We call upon North Korea to stop such behavior immediately."

South Korean national security adviser Chung Eui-yong, Defense Minister Jeong Kyong-doo and other senior officials also held an emergency video conference to discuss the launch, according to the presidential office.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced in a New Year's message that his country was no longer bound by a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests due to the diplomatic deadlock with Washington.

He also vowed to strengthen the North's self-defense capabilities and warned a "new strategic weapons" would be unveiled soon.

North Korea, which sharply

restricted travel and quarantined foreigners after the virus first appeared in China in late December, has not confirmed any cases of the virus.

Officials have expressed skepticism about that claim and warned the isolated nation would be especially vulnerable to an outbreak because of its weak medical infrastructure.

Trump has said he's not concerned about the short-range missile launches but signaled that an intercontinental ballistic missile test would be a red line.

In announcing Trump's letter last week, Kim's sister Kim Jo Yong stressed the relationship between the two leaders remained "very excellent" but warned that was not a guarantee for peace.

She alluded to the fact that the country faces hardship from stringent U.S.-led economic sanctions aimed at driving it back to the nuclear negotiating table.

"Even at this moment we are working hard to develop and defend ourselves on our own under the cruel environment which the U.S. is keen to provide," she said.

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USAF Academy cadet found dead on campus

By Heather Benit
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Air Force Academy cadet was found dead on campus last week, the academy said.

Circumstances surrounding the death, which occurred Thursday, are under investigation, but there are no indications that it was related to the coronavirus or caused by foul play, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based academy said in a statement.

"As our entire Academy community mourns the loss of one of our own, we are taking immediate steps to make sure we take care of the Cadet Wing during this difficult time," Air Force Academy leadership said in an email to parents.

The cadet's name is being withheld until next-of-kin have been notified, per Department of Defense policy.

The academy also announced that two cadets have tested positive for the coronavirus, bringing the number of confirmed cases at the sprawling campus to five. Two civilian employees and an active-duty service member have also been confirmed to have the virus.

The two cadets, both seniors, are in isolation and are being closely watched.

Most of the nearly 4,000 cadets at the academy were dismissed two weeks ago and are studying remotely until the end of the academic year. The unprecedented move was taken to allow seniors, who remain on campus, to be housed in individual rooms and follow social distancing guidelines, which are considered key in stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

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MILITARY

Remembering Iwo Jima

Carnage remains seared into vets' memories 75 years later

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

Roy Earle chuckles as he recalls his "memorable" 21st birthday laying communication lines on Iwo Jima 75 years ago. It isn't long before the laugh turns to melancholy as the darkness of the hellacious battle fought there catches up with the 96-year-old Maine resident.

Then a private first class with the 4th Marine Division's 1st Joint Assault Signal Company, Earle landed at Yellow Beach 1 on Iwo Jima in the fourth wave on Feb. 19, 1945. The short and agile field telephone and switchboard operator scooted up walls of black volcanic sand and ash under fire to find a large shell hole where he set up his switchboard that would link the beach with Marines on the front line.

The next day, he was ordered back down to the beach to find 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, which hadn't established communications.

"We couldn't get in touch with our left flank," he said earlier this month in a phone interview with Stars and Stripes, his voice growing quiet. "I walked over and, oh my God, what a mess."

Just as the Marines had run off their landing craft, a shell landed at their feet, killing most of them. "A kid I served mess duty with before we left ... there he was," Earle said. "Oh God, that I remember for a long time. What a thing. Oh God, it was awful."

Earle found the dead men's switchboard and carried the 75-pound device back to the shell hole. He sent word for their surviving rifle companies to get in touch so he could get them hooked up.

"By the third day we were really getting slaughtered up there," he said. "We lost 55% of our division on Iwo."

The island was finally declared secure March 26, 1945. The Reunion of Honor, an annual memorial service scheduled for Saturday that brings together American and Japanese veterans of the battle, was called off because of coronavirus concerns. However, remembering the sacrifice and stories of those who fought and died on Iwo Jima is still important to many.

"Iwo Jima is a testament to what America was willing to endure to defend freedom and our way of life," said Marine Corps History Division director Edward Nevloski. The 75th anniversary of Iwo Jima is about celebrating the selfless and courageous acts of

thousands of American boys sent overseas ... who would ask for nothing in return. When I think of Iwo Jima, I always ask, where do we get such men?"

The Battle of Iwo Jima began with an amphibious assault by Marines on Feb. 19, 1945, following months of aerial and naval bombardment. The Japanese had dug deep into the volcanic rock of the island, connected by a labyrinth of tunnels.

Seventy-thousand Marines took part in the 36-day battle, with more than 6,800 killed and 19,000 wounded. On the Japanese side, about 18,000 were killed. Only 216 Japanese were captured alive.

The battle marked a turning point in World War II; it was the first time the U.S. had fought the Japanese on native Japanese soil. It was also the first time that American casualties outnumbered those of the enemy.

The flag-raising atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, captured by The Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal in his iconic photograph, helped rally support for the war effort back home and became an indelible symbol of American sacrifice and courage. At the same time, it became clear that the Japanese were prepared to fight to the last man.

New improved tactics

Iwo Jima, which means "Sulfur Island," presented a logistical problem for the allies as they neared mainland Japan at the tail end of their island-hopping campaign in 1944, said Iwo Jima Association of America historian Charles Neimeyer.

Military planners believed the key to Japan's defeat would be sustained B-29 Superfortress bomber raids on the Japanese homeland. "Unfortunately for the bombers, it was a 14-hour roundtrip flight for them," Neimeyer said. "And course, halfway there, they were being attacked by Japanese fighters."

Located halfway between recently taken American airfields in the Marianas and Japan were the Volcano and Bonin islands, which included Iwo Jima.

radar on Iwo Jima tipped off the home islands of an imminent attack, Neimeyer said.

If taken, Iwo Jima would not only improve the lethality of American bombing raids but could also host fighter escorts, serve as an emergency airfield for damaged aircraft coming back from the raids and help facilitate air and sea blockades, according



BOB CAMPBELL/U.S. Marine Corps

This undated photo from the National Archives depicts the Marine Corps' 27th Regiment, 2nd Battalion landing on Iwo Jima in 1945.

to Naval History and Heritage Command.

Orders came down in October 1944 to occupy Iwo Jima, according to a National Park Service history. Naval surface ships began their bombardment the following month. On Dec. 8, 74 straight days of aerial bombing commenced.

American assault troops would find the same determined enemy when they hit the beaches of Iwo Jima a few months later, with one key difference from previous battles.

In mid-1944, Iwo Jima got a new Japanese garrison commander, Gen. Tadachika Kuribayashi.

He immediately ordered a shakeup in Japanese tactics, Neimeyer said. In addition to ordering 11 miles of tunnels dug around the island, he also ordered his men to hold their fortified fighting positions until their deaths, to take 10 Marines with each one of them before they were allowed to die and to stop to the wasteful practice of banzai suicide charges.

Kuribayashi suffered with his men and served as an inspiration.

He "loved his family very much and sent many letters to them until the U.S. landed on Iwo Jima," his grandson, Japanese House of Representatives member Yoshitaka Shindo, told Stars and Stripes last year.

Kuribayashi started one letter home saying he was concerned since he would not be coming home alive that his wife and kids would catch a cold due to a hole in the kitchen wall. He had been unable to fix it prior to his departure.

"I understand that sacrificing his life for the country was to protect his loved ones and to fulfill his responsibility," Shindo said. "He never gave up no matter how difficult the situation was, and his attitude became my model in life."

Kuribayashi's body was never recovered from Iwo Jima.

Shindo helped facilitate the first joint Reunion of Honor ceremony on the island with American veterans of the battle in 1985.

"Protecting their loved ones back home was the last and only wish on the minds of the fallen at

Iwo Jima, and that extends to the U.S. soldiers that died on the island as well," he said. "By telling the stories about how hard and difficult the battle was ... and how bravely they all fought, it will remind us to stay in peace. Keeping the peace is the only way we can compensate the fallen souls."

'Bad business'

The V Amphibious Corps landing force departed the Marianas for Iwo Jima on Feb. 15 and 16 according to the park service history. At the same time, the Navy launched airstrikes against the Japanese island of Honshu to distract the Japanese from Iwo Jima. The 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed Feb. 19 on Iwo Jima's black sand beaches. The landing areas on the southeastern coast had been designated Green, Red, Yellow and Blue beaches.

Initially, the Marines met little resistance as they piled up on the beaches, the Navy history said.

About 40 minutes into the landing, Kuribayashi opened up with everything he had, Neimeyer said. The Marines soon discovered they had walked into a shooting gallery. The Japanese had the beaches filled in with artillery and interlocking fields of machine-gun fire from fortified concrete blockhouses and other concealed positions.

"It was like shooting ducks in a barrel," Neimeyer said. "The majority of the Marine Corps KIA's and casualties are going to take place at a high rate on this first time after that."

Towering hills of coarse, black volcanic sand hampered the men's escape from the kill zone, Earle recalled.

"You don't run on Iwo," he said. "That sand and ash and stuff was murder there, so I 'hurried' as they say."

Once ashore, the volcanic rock that covers the island caused deep cuts and lacerations on the Marines when they sought cover from enemy fire.

"The Japanese were covered and concealed in hundreds of cave openings," Nevloski said. "The Japanese had been preparing defenses on Iwo for more than

20 years and had their weapons zeroed and fields of fire mapped out precisely. The Marines would have to fight a 360-degree battle as the Japanese often popped up from cover once the Marines passed by."

The 4th Marine Division pushed forward and took the enemy strongpoint known as "the Quarry" on the first day, despite heavy opposition, the Navy history said. Marines from the 5th Marine Division's 28th Marines isolated Mount Suribachi.

Jack Colby, now 95 and living in Alexandria, Va., hit the beach with the 4th Marine Division. A man of few words, he struggled to describe the horrors he witnessed as a young private first class.

"It was a mess, a pure mess, that's about the size of it; guys getting knocked down right and left," he told Stars and Stripes earlier this month. "The [Japanese] had a pretty good position where they were looking down on a lot of our troops. But anyway, that's the way it goes."

Asked what he remembered most about the battle, Colby answered with one word: "Casualties."

"I spent a lot of time moving around behind the line, with a line of casualties," he said. "You'd see casualties. It was bad business. But that's what war is."

Colby was at Airfield No. 1 when the two flag-raising occurred atop Suribachi. A battle was still raging, so he paid them little mind.

Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the battle, told Stars and Stripes at Iwo Jima in 2015 that the flags energized the men whose morale was dragging.

"The men still had 31 days of the toughest fighting ahead of them as they moved to take the northern end of the island. The 3rd we had lost so many guys."

"The men still had 31 days of the toughest fighting ahead of them as they moved to take the northern end of the island. The 3rd

SEE IWO JIMA ON PAGE 5

MILITARY



KIRBY TURKAB/U.S. Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Alex Carlson, 37th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, pushes an air drop package out over Chievres Air Base, Belgium, on Thursday.

Airlifters focus on 'aggressive' training despite virus limits

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

CHIEVRES, Belgium — “Herky 72” pulls a tight turn to the right and then rolls 60 degrees to the left as it nears the drop zone, as if avoiding ground fire.

On its final approach to the training area, where it will unload its cargo from the sky, the C-130J Super Hercules drops to just 300 feet above a disused airstrip with shrubbery pulled sharply back, suddenly slowing the transport.

In the cargo bay, the hinged rear door has already been lowered. When the pilot orders the drop, a loadmaster pulls the cord retaining the training pallet—loaded with water-filled containers—which rolls down the ramp, plunging into the void.

A parachute blossoms behind the pallet, seemingly stopping its fall in midair moments before touchdown at this NATO air base in Belgium.

Still simulating a combat mission during Thursday's flight, the Super Hercules—call sign “Herky 72”—and piloted by Maj. Erik Svendsen and Lt. John Kromahrens—made a tight turn climbing before leveling off. The loadmasters, Tech. Sgt. Alex Carlson and Staff Sgt. Brian Clark, closed up the ramp as the two-plane formation flew a race-

track pattern around the base, preparing for the next drop.

The planes, belonging to the 86th Airlift Wing's 37th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, have continued making regular forays to the zone for airdrops and other training despite limitations due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

The wing, which runs air bases in Germany, Portugal, Spain and Belgium and has facilities in several other European countries, has adjusted to each country's regulations, said wing commander Brig. Gen. Mark R. August.

But the first concern is making sure the airmen and their families are protected from the pandemic, he said. This includes closing mass gatherings as well as gyms or libraries, August said in an interview.

Military personnel in Europe have also generally been told to limit their travel and to follow precautions like practicing social distancing and washing their hands for at least 20 seconds.

So far, there have been six confirmed COVID-19 cases among people who live or work at Ramstein, the base website said Friday.

“In some ways, this has definitely slowed down operations,” August said. “But my air traffic control is open ... maintenance of aircraft is open, hangars are open, my mission-oriented skill

set is still open.”

As an airlift wing, the 86th must be prepared to respond not just to an adversary, but also to scenarios involving humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and deployment of medical supplies to various locations, he said.

“When it comes time of taking care of (our) mission, our nation is counting on us to continue to project air power to different regions on the earth,” August said.

Lt. Col. Gregory Kantz, commander of the 37th Airlift Squadron, said that the training flight Thursday showed how the squadron intended to maintain its combat readiness despite the current restrictions.

This included flying more complex training missions about five times per week, rather than just occasional takeoff-and-landing flights.

“In order to maintain our ... proficiency to execute a wartime footing with a near-peer adversary, we have to do more aggressive flying,” Kantz said.

“Our primary focus has been to find ways to continue to train ... while taking prudent precautions to avoid spreading this disease,” he said. “I think we've found a pretty good balance and we're able to go do those things.”

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Base: US withdrawal from Iraq continues as scheduled

FROM FRONT PAGE

the autonomous Kurdish region, which has created security gaps benefiting ISIS militants. The coalition's presence had been a mediating force between the two competing authorities at times.

A senior coalition official earlier this month claimed that ISIS forces weren't as able to exploit the “security gap” between Iraqi and Kurdish forces, as the militants did in the past.

“That doesn't necessarily mean that Daesh is free to oper-

ate in the way that they wish,” said the official, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS. “They're still pretty constrained.”

U.S.-led forces have already withdrawn this month from the Qayara base in Nineveh province followed by the Qaim base near the border with Syria. All were in line with plans to pull out from bases across Iraq and consolidate coalition forces in Baghdad and at the Ain al-Asad Air Base in the country's western desert.

The plan has been in the works since late last year, the senior co-

alition military official said, and accelerated when Iraqi forces proved that they were capable of facing the threat from the ISIS with limited coalition assistance.

Coalition officials said that they would still assist Iraqi forces with air support and surveillance, but significantly cut back on training and ground operations, as the limited withdrawal continues.

Until last month, there were some 7,500 coalition troops based in Iraq, including 5,000 U.S. forces.

Iwo Jima: 27 Medals of Honor awarded for actions during battle

FROM PAGE 4

Marine Division joined the fighting on the fifth day to help take the center sector of the island, a Navy history said. Kuribayashi had prepared successive lines of Japanese positions across the heart of the island to greet them.

Step toward victory

As they moved north, the Marines fought through places with names like “Meat Grinder,” Hill 382; the “Turkey Knob,” which had a reinforced concrete communications center; and the “Amphitheater,” a southeastern extension of Hill 382, the Navy history said.

The 3rd Marine Division encountered the most heavily fortified position on the island in its move to take Airfield No. 2.

All those positions “had interlocking fields of fire, that hills covered other hills and cliffs covered other cliffs, so that if you moved up to take one out, the other would open up on you,” Neimeyer said.

Marine infantry was forced to get up close and personal to engage their concealed enemy, blasting them out of caves with satchel charges and burning them out with flamethrowers. Marines fought all day, lost men and gained only a couple of hundred yards.

The 5th Marine Division moved up the west coast of the island, Neimeyer said. The 3rd moved up the center and the 4th moved up the east coast.

The 4th survived a “mini banzai” attack from the final 700 Japanese navy holdouts and linked up with the other divisions on March 10, six days after the first B-29 made an emergency landing on Iwo Jima, the Navy history said.

The island was first declared secure on March 16, though fighting continued. The U.S. Army's 147th Infantry regiment took control of the island on April 4.

Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded for actions during the battle, more than any other battle in U.S. history, a Navy history said.

Neimeyer said the victory at Iwo Jima was significant because the public viewed it as the first step toward final victory.

“They had gone on this long march across all these island chains and they had lost all these folks,” Neimeyer said. “They fought hard on each one of these islands, and now it looks like we're closing in on the final chapter of the war and there's an end to it, so it was a very positive thing, although they knew that the possibility of even greater casualties were going to come if they had to invade. It was also a wake-up call for how violent the invasion of the home islands was likely to become.”

The war would be over five months later with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Iwo Jima is near the top, if not at the top, of Marine Corps battles,” Nevloski said. “The ferociousness of the Japanese defenders, the brutal terrain on which the Marines and Japanese fought, the casualties, and what was at stake makes Iwo a landmark battle.”

For the men who fought it, the battle looms over them 75 years on, as Suribachi did over the beach on D-Day.

“It's a shame we had to lose so many of those poor guys,” said Bob Persichetti, a Navy radioman second class who watched the battle from just offshore aboard the command ship USS Eldorado.

He recalled some of the grievous injuries he saw on Marines brought aboard his ship.

“I don't know why we have to have wars,” he said with a deep sigh.

Earle said: “We were glad we could do it, but we hated what it cost us. I'm glad I'm still here, but I just can't believe I went through all of that.”

Stars and Stripes reporter Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report. burke.matt@stars.com
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VIRUS OUTBREAK

US bases in Japan add limits as cases increase

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE,
CAITLIN DOORNBOS
AND SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Commanders ordered people to shelter in place and enacted other safety measures for U.S. personnel in Japan, where five active-duty service members and one dependent have tested positive for coronavirus since Thursday.

Late Saturday, the Air Force's 18th Wing confirmed that two airmen assigned to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa have been infected. Both individuals, who are not part of the same unit, recently returned from Europe, 18th Wing commander Brig. Gen. Joel Carey said in a video posted to Facebook. Their symptoms developed during a 15-day period of restricted movement.

The wing later announced a tactical pause for Monday and Tuesday.

Commanders will use this 48-hour period to further educate their teams and their families on [the coronavirus] and reinforce understanding and execution of current Restriction of Movement procedures as well as other measures we've put in place to protect our forces," said a message on Kadena's official Facebook page. Friday evening at Yokosuka Naval Base — where a sailor on Thursday became the first U.S. service member in Japan to test positive for the virus — person-

nel were told to shelter in place when two more sailors became infected. The installation is about 40 miles south of Tokyo.

It's unclear where the new patients contracted the illness. They "have no known connection to the first positive result," a base statement said. "Public health professionals are performing contact tracing to identify people who may have been exposed to facilitate notification and screening."

The shelter-in-place order, originally planned for 48 hours, was extended Sunday afternoon.

"Only mission-essential personnel shall report to work until further notice," Yokosuka officials announced Sunday. "All personnel are directed to limit activity to their quarters until further notice and all other activities are restricted to essential movement only."

Also on Friday, U.S. Army Japan announced that a dependent tested positive at Camp Zama, about 28 miles southwest of Tokyo. The person, who had been restricted to quarters since returning from the United States on March 19, is now in isolation on post, a statement said.

Leaders at the affected installations emphasized in separate statements that infected personnel are under direct medical supervision and strict quarantine.

Before the sudden surge in cases, commanders across Japan had already imposed a series of

restrictions to curb the coronavirus' spread.

Naval Forces Japan moved first Wednesday by restricting its sailors' travel and liberty and ordering them to stay out of civilian business establishments, with some exceptions, such as food stores, medical offices, pharmacies and take-out restaurants.

On Friday — before Camp Zama's positive case was announced — U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Viet Luong ordered service members of all branches at Army posts in Japan to travel only between their off-base homes and their duty stations. They must confine their off-base movements to a local area.

On Okinawa, Kadena posted a set of prohibitions on the base's official Facebook page Friday, banning visitor passes except for official business, use of mass transit and visiting sit-down restaurants, bars, clubs, gyms and theaters off base. Airmen may travel around Okinawa and the adjacent islands, but only in private vehicles.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Otis Sims prohibited airmen from venturing beyond the suburbs surrounding the base. Those living off base may travel from home to work only. Base gatherings of more than 20 people are banned.

Marine Forces Japan announced restrictions Friday that



THEON GODOLO/Stars and Stripes

A floor decal inside the post office at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo encourages social distancing Friday.

mirror those of the Navy and Air Force. The order — which bans personnel from visiting the same types of off-base establishments — applies to Marines, dependents, DOD civilian employees, contractors and other personnel.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in southwestern Japan went a step further Friday, directing members of all service branches to follow the Marine Forces Japan guidance, according to their official Facebook page. The order does not apply to the dependents, contractors or civilians attached to the Navy, although they are highly encouraged to follow the guidance.

All four service branches emphasized social distancing — typi-

cally a minimum six feet between individuals — but for the Army a minimum three feet — and frequent, thorough handwashing.

Luong, the U.S. Army Japan commander, specified that soldiers must wash their hands before entering common areas such as the post exchange, commissary, mailroom and barracks. He also imposed a limit of six people for any face-to-face official meeting.

Burke reported from Camp Foster, Okinawa; Doornbos reported from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan; Robson reported from Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.
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Balikatan exercise in Philippines canceled amid concerns



BENJAMIN DAVELLA III/U.S. Navy

The USS Wasp arrives in Subic Bay, Philippines, for Balikatan drills in March 2019. The drills this year have been canceled due to virus concerns.

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military has canceled a major exercise in the Philippines because of the coronavirus.

"Due to concerns for the health and safety of the participating exercise forces and local populations near the planned exercise areas, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command has canceled Exercise Balikatan 2020 scheduled for May 4-15 in the Republic of the Philippines," an INDOPACOM official said in a statement Friday.

Balikatan is an annual exercise between the United States and the Philippines with participation by Australia.

Canceling the exercise follows restrictions on international travel implemented by the U.S. Department of Defense and the Philippines in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the command said.

"In light of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding COVID-19 pandemic and in the best interest of the health and safety of both countries' forces, it is prudent to cancel Balikatan 2020," Adm. Phil Davidson, INDOPACOM commander, said in the statement. "We remain deeply committed to our long-standing Alliance and friendship."

Last year, the Navy sent the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp and F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters to the Philippines

for the first time as part of the drills.

This year's exercise was expected to proceed despite a rift between the allies. In February, the Philippines notified the United States of its intention to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement, which permits U.S. troops to deploy in the country.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the termination after Washington reportedly canceled a U.S. visa for Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa, a stalwart ally and former Philippines National Police chief.

Dela Rosa has been cited for human rights violations related to Duterte's bloody drug war that began when he was elected president in 2016.

Navy offers extension for sailors leaving service after ban on traveling

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — An order to stop all personnel movement to curb the coronavirus' spread has prompted the Navy to offer a deal to sailors leaving the service in the coming year.

Sailors scheduled to exit the Navy or retire before April 2, 2021 may apply to extend their service by six months to a year, according to a Navy memorandum issued March 20.

The Navy on March 21 announced a 60-day halt on all travel, including personnel moving to new assignments. The order will

expire on May 11 but leaves open the possibility that some critical job vacancies during that period will go unfilled.

The decision to offer extensions was made to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on the Navy "and maintain operational, sailor and family readiness," according to the memo.

Not all sailors who apply for the extension will be approved. Priority will be given to those in "sea duty and critical billets," according to the memo. Requests will be considered until July 1.

Also, sailors facing mandatory separation or retirement, officers who are not selected for promotion twice and those separating

because of disability or misconduct will not be considered for the extension.

Additionally, the Navy in its memo invited sailors who recently left the service but are interested in returning to contact their local recruiters for opportunities to return to active duty.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

New: US military tries to balance readiness, rising cases amid restrictions

FROM FRONT PAGE

a few days," Abrams said in his office, wearing civilian clothes including a baseball cap and a black T-shirt with the #KillTheVirus logo that the military has adopted.

The number of people in quarantine, which had recently dipped from a high of 398 to double-digits, rose back above 100, Abrams said. People who had been near the confirmed cases were urged to self-isolate and contact the public health line (0503-337-2556).

Shifting the balance

Abrams acknowledged the challenges, particularly for platoon and company-level training on Camp Humphreys, home to most of the 28,500 service members stationed on the divided peninsula. Gyms also were closed.

The U.S. military has canceled or curtailed exercises and implemented similar restrictions throughout the force as more than 650 cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed within the Defense Department.

But the Army in South Korea is on one of the world's most dangerous fronts. Camp Humphreys is less than 100 miles south of the heavily fortified border with North Korea.

Under scoring the threat, North Korea test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles on Sunday, the fourth such launch this month as it continues to develop its weapons program amid stalled nuclear talks with the United States.

"We call it tight-though readiness," Abrams said Friday. "To protect the force is our No. 1 priority, but we have to balance that with maintaining mission

readiness.

"I have shifted the balance today for Camp Humphreys and accepted what I believe is acceptable risk on the mission side until I feel confident that we have our arms around these particular cases," he said.

"We're at a pretty high level of readiness so I'm not concerned for four or five or six days. Now if we had to hypothetically maintain these conditions for 30 days then I will start to get concerned," he added.

The North insists it has not had any cases, although that's impossible to confirm and State Department officials have expressed concern about a brewing humanitarian crisis.

Abrams said the North had resumed military activity after going on lockdown for about 30 days due to the coronavirus, which first appeared in China late last year.

He said that would likely stop soon since the North was nearing the end of its winter training cycle and needed to deploy troops to help with the spring planting season and construction projects.

Possible exposure

Four coronavirus cases have now been confirmed at Camp Humphreys, which has a population of more than 37,000 in the rural area of Pyeongtaek.

The other eight — including the only other soldier — were at bases in Daegu and nearby areas.

Military officials were scouring closed-circuit TV footage and interviewing people to determine who else may have been exposed after a soldier and a contractor were confirmed to have the virus



KIM GAME/Stars and Stripes

Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, discusses the coronavirus threat during an interview with Stars and Stripes in his office at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Friday.

on Friday.

Abrams said they appeared to have been infected by another contractor who tested positive Tuesday, which would make them the first people known to have been infected on post. All worked at Eighth Army headquarters.

Military police were on guard as lines formed outside the Camp Humphreys commissary on Friday because only 100 people were allowed in at a time to prevent close contact.

"I've been staying at home all the days I'm not on duty and I ran out of food," Navy Lt. Jamie Colyer said as she waited her turn.

"Do I want to stand outside in the wind? No. Am I upset about it? No. I think that the restrictions are a reasonable measure," she added. "We've seen how it can jump from person to person."

Down the street, soldiers wheeled a cart packed with groceries toward the barracks on foot after on-post taxi and bus service was halted.

Last straw

Abrams stressed that even with

the new cases, the USFK numbers remain relatively low for a community comprising about 58,000 people including service members, family members, civilians and South Korean employees.

However, he declared a public health emergency earlier this week to gain authority to enforce compliance among civilians as well as service members with rules against nonessential activity off-post.

Two soldiers received nonjudicial punishment on March 19, including reductions in rank, forfeiture in pay, extra duty and written reprimands, for violations of COVID-19 public health guidance and other orders, according to the Eighth Army.

Five civilians also had been caught in local establishments after posting photos on social media, Abrams said.

The contractor who tested positive on Tuesday, known as USFK case No. 10, went to a restaurant in the community, Abrams said.

"Early on people were very compliant, but you have to fight complacency, and case No. 10,

that was the straw that broke the camel's back," he said.

South Korea has seen a decline in the daily number of confirmed cases in recent weeks, but authorities have warned the crisis is not over and to continued cluster outbreaks due to infections imported from abroad.

South Korea logged 105 new cases Saturday for a total of 9,583, according to the Korean Centers for Disease Control. That was down from a high of 909 on Feb. 29.

Abrams shed some light on how the military is measuring progress, saying 50 cases per day would be the next benchmark, then 25.

"The message is if you want access to a USFK installation you actually have to be 100% compliant, every single person because it only takes one," he said.

"Once it gets inside the wire, once it gets inside the protective bubble, then it puts everybody else at risk," he said, "and it puts the mission at risk."

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Trump sees off NY-bound Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort

By GARY A. HARKI

The (Norfolk, Va.) Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. — President Donald Trump visited Naval Station Norfolk Saturday to see off the USNS Comfort as it headed to New York with medical staff and hospital beds to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

"This great ship behind me is a 70,000-ton message of hope and solidarity to the incredible people of New York, a place I know very well, a place I love," Trump said, standing in front of the gleaming white hull of the Comfort. "We're here for you. We are fighting for you and we are with you all the way and we always will be. You have the unwavering support of the entire nation."

The Navy hospital ship, which is crewed by civilian mariners and gets most of its medical staff from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, should arrive Monday.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Local residents wave and a man holds an American flag as they send off the USNS Comfort en route to New York to help in the response to the coronavirus Saturday in Hampton, Va.

The plan is for the ship to take patients needing hospital care that are not infected with the virus, freeing up much-needed

space in the city's hospitals. The Comfort's sister ship, the USNS Mercy, arrived Friday in Los Angeles on a similar mission. "For

several weeks, the Department of Defense has been surging personnel capabilities and equipment to help slow the spread of the virus," Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said in his introduction of the president. "Thousands of National Guard troops are mobilized across the country, conducting a variety of essential tasks ranging from planning to logistics to medical support. Active duty units are moving critical supplies and equipment and medical personnel to some of the nation's most heavily impacted areas."

More than 120 Navy Reserve volunteers, many medical professionals, reported to the Military Sealift Command's ship on Wednesday for the mission. The Navy has yet to release how many medical personnel are headed to New York. The Mercy, like the Comfort, can carry about 1,200 medical and support staff. The

Navy currently has about 800 in Los Angeles.

Trump said the Comfort was quickly made ready to depart. A process that was supposed to take weeks took just four days, he said.

"The Comfort will arrive at Pier 90 in Manhattan on Monday, three weeks ahead of schedule," Trump said. "Its crew will begin treating patients on Tuesday. It will be met in New York harbor by Governor Cuomo, who I just spoke with. He's very excited."

In his Saturday press conference, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said he would welcome the ship "with open arms." The Comfort contains more than 1,000 hospital beds, 12 fully-equipped operating rooms, a CAT-scan, medical laboratory, pharmacy, large helicopter landing deck, two oxygen-producing plants and many other services.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Calif. death toll surpasses 100 as infections surge

Residents are asked to spend another weekend at home

By DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press

With cases of coronavirus surging and the death toll surpassing 100, lawmakers are pleading with cooped-up Californians to spend a second weekend at home to slow the spread of infection.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday that the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 spiked to more than 1,000 and that overnight the number of people admitted to intensive care units doubled from 200 to more than 400. He said the numbers are relatively modest in comparison with the 52,000 confirmed cases in New York, the U.S. epicenter of the outbreak, but the trend could lead to overstretched hospitals in California.

California could see conditions similar to New York "if we stop practicing physical distancing ... if we pull back from our stay-at-home policy ... if we go back to our normal routines without bending the curve," Newsom said while touring a Silicon Valley firm that is refurbishing outdated ventilators for hospitals.

The escalating crisis was underscored by an announcement Saturday that 12 elderly residents of a nursing facility in the Southern California desert city of Yucaipa tested positive for COVID-19. An 89-year-old



MARK J. TERRILL/AP Photo

Los Angeles police officers patrol near the Hollywood Sign on Saturday in Los Angeles. The city began a three-week shutdown of public trails that includes the one leading to the famous sign.

woman who lived there died from the illness Thursday, according to San Bernardino County public health officials, who said they are working to test an unspecified number of residents and employees at the facility.

"This outbreak is a signal to anyone in the county who is not taking this pandemic seriously and is resisting complying with public health orders and guidelines that the threat of COVID-19 is very real," said Dr. Erin Gustafson, the acting county health officer.

Also Saturday, the state's Judicial Council, the rule-making arm of the judicial system, announced several measures that will take effect immediately and extend 90 days after California lifts its state of emergency.

They are:

- Extend the period of 10 court days for holding a preliminary hearing and the defendant's right of release to 30 court days.

- Extend the period in which a defendant charged with a felony shall be taken before a judicial officer from 48 hours to not more

than seven days.

- Extend the period for holding a criminal trial by more than 30 days.

- Extend the period to bring an action to trial by more than 30 days.

The council directed courts to use technology such as video conferences to conduct judicial proceedings and other operations remotely. The council also told courts to use technology in arraignments and preliminary hearings so that "defendants are not held in custody, and children

are not held in custody or removed from the custody of their parents or guardians, without timely due process of law or in violation of constitutional rights."

It has been more than a week since Newsom issued the stay-at-home order for 40 million residents, restricting them from all but essential outdoor activities such as buying food and including only outdoor exercise such as walking or running near home that doesn't put them within 6 feet of another person.

However, reports of people packing beaches and hiking trails has prompted local governments to close recreation areas.

Los Angeles over the weekend began a three-week shutdown of beaches, piers, beach bike paths and parking lots along with public trails, including one leading to the famous Hollywood sign. Golf courses, tennis courts and skate parks also were shuttered.

The warnings resonated at Venice Beach, which was nearly empty on a sunny Saturday except for a few souls walking by the water and cycling on the bike path. The scene was remarkably different from a week ago, when people packed the famous stretch of sand on the first weekend of the stay-at-home order.

In San Diego, the most popular beaches were blocked with yellow police tape, and police were patrolling them to discourage people from congregating there. Spokesman Ricardo Lopez said officers could face misdemeanor charges carrying a sentence of up to six months in jail.

Trump backtracks on New York quarantine suggestion

By COLBY IKOWITZ
AND MARISSA J. LANG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The United States reached a grim milestone Saturday, doubling the number of coronavirus-related deaths over two days to more than 2,000 people as the rate of infected Americans surpassed every country in the world.

New York remained the hardest hit, a devastating toll compounded Saturday by President Donald Trump's day-long dance over whether he'd order a federal quarantine of the New York metro region — a proposal he ultimately retracted.

The president spent most of the day teasing a travel restriction on the New York metro area, confounding public officials who were blindsided by the suggestion. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, called the idea "preposterous" and equated it to imprisonment and "a declaration of war."

Then, a little after 8 p.m., the president tweeted that a quarantine wouldn't be necessary after all, and instead, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would issue a "strong travel advisory" for the New York tri-state area, the details of which were not immediately available.

With the country now leading the world in coronavirus cases, Trump suggested earlier in the day that a mandatory quarantine on parts of New York, New Jersey



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

A medical worker sticks her head outside a COVID-19 testing tent set up outside Elmhurst Hospital Center in New York on Saturday.

and Connecticut — the nation's hit-hardest region — could be forthcoming.

"Some people would like to see New York quarantined because it's a hot spot," Trump told reporters outside the White House. "I'm thinking about that right now, we might not have to do it, but there's a possibility that sometime today we'll do a

quarantine, short-term, two weeks, on New York."

Trump later clarified that if enacted, the quarantine would affect "the New York metropolitan area," but he did not specify exactly what parts of that tri-state region.

Two White House officials said the idea was spurred by a conversation that morning

with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis who had complained to Trump about people from New York pouring into the Sunshine State. Aides spent the day warning the president against it, explaining that it would be impossible to enforce and could create more complications, the officials said, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Trump first raised the idea as he headed to Norfolk, where a medical ship meant to ease the burden on New York City hospitals waited to depart. He said governors from other states had asked him to consider a domestic travel ban from the New York area.

Cuomo, who said he spoke with the president early Saturday about medical supplies, hospital beds and additional aid for New York, called a regional lockdown "a civil war kind of discussion."

"I don't think it's plausible, I don't think it's legal. It would be total mayhem, I don't have another word for it," Cuomo said during a blistering interview on CNN. "Why you would want to create total pandemonium on top of a pandemic, I have no idea."

"It wouldn't just be New York, New Jersey, Connecticut. Next week it would be Louisiana with New Orleans, then the next week after that, Detroit, Michigan and so on across the nation," he said. "I don't think the president is looking to start a lot of wars with a lot of states just about now, for a lot of reasons."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Expert: US could see up to 200K deaths from virus

In Europe, Spain and Italy demand more help as infections continue to surge

Associated Press

The coronavirus outbreak could kill 100,000 to 200,000 Americans, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert warned on Sunday, as authorities urged people in and around the nation's deadliest hot spot, New York City, to limit their travel to contain the scourge.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made the dire prediction on CNN's "State of the Union," adding that millions in the U.S. could become infected.

As of Sunday morning, the U.S. had about 125,000 infections and 2,200 deaths, according to the running tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the true number of cases is thought to be higher because of testing shortages and mild cases that may have gone unrecognized or unreported.

Around the world, doctors were forced to make tough choices about which patients to save with their limited breathing machines, and Spain and Italy demanded more European help as they fight still-surgeing coronavirus infections in the continent's worst crisis since World War II.

The confirmed global death toll surpassed 32,000 and new virus epicenters emerged in U.S. cities such as Detroit, New Orleans and

Chicago. Even rural America has not been immune, as virus hot-spots erupt in Midwestern towns and Rocky Mountain ski havens.

Spain and Italy alone account for more than half of the world's death toll, and are still seeing over 800 deaths a day each.

Experts say, however, that virus toll numbers across the world are being seriously under-represented because of limited testing and political decisions about which borders to close. Unlike the U.S., France and Italy do not count deaths that take place at home or in nursing homes, even though nursing homes are known coronavirus incubators around the world.

"Europe must demonstrate that it is able to respond to this historic call," Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said late Saturday. "I will fight until the last drop of sweat, until the last gram of energy, to obtain a strong, vigorous, cohesive European response."

President Donald Trump backed-track on a threat to quarantine New York and neighboring states amid criticism and questions about the legality of such a move. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel advisory urging all residents of New York City and others in New York state, New Jersey and Connecticut to avoid all nonessential travel for 14 days.

Shocking as that is for Ameri-



OLMO CALVO/AP

An undertaker prepares a grave for the burial of a COVID-19 victim at the Almudena cemetery in Madrid, Spain. The country banned all nonessential work Sunday as it hit a daily record of 838 dead.

cans, that stopped short of the restrictions imposed in Europe or elsewhere. Parisians are fined if they try to leave the city, South Africans can't even buy liquor and Serbians are upset over a ban on walking their dogs. In Italy, burials are being held with only one family member.

Spain moved to tighten its lockdown and ban all nonessential work Sunday, as it hit another daily record of 838 dead.

Spain's health emergencies chief, Fernando Simon, said that the country's infection rate fell Sunday to 9%, down from 18% three days before. But he said that the number of people in intensive care units keeps rising and hospitals are at their limits in several regions.

The crisis is pummeling world economies and putting huge strains on national health care systems. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for a more vigorous response from the 27-nation European Union.

"It is the most difficult moment for the EU since its foundation, and it has to be ready to rise to the challenge," he said.

Spain, Italy, France and six other EU members have asked the union to share the burden by issuing European debt, dubbed coronabonds, to help fight the virus. But the idea has met resistance from Germany and the Netherlands.

European countries have also resisted sharing masks with their neighbors for fear that they, too, will need them in mass quantities soon. Many countries have turned to China, where the outbreak is easing, flying in cargo planes to get protective medical equipment.

Worldwide infections surpassed 680,000, according to Johns Hopkins. The U.S. leads the world in reported cases, but five other countries have higher death tolls: Italy, Spain, China, Iran and France. Italy has more than 10,000 deaths, the most of

any country.

Poland is considering delaying its May 10 presidential election, and Russia ordered borders to close Monday. A prominent French politician with the virus died, France's first death of a senior official.

More than 145,000 people have recovered, according to Johns Hopkins.

Pope Francis called Sunday for a cease-fire in all conflicts around the globe "to focus together on the true light of our lives." He also urged authorities to take special care of those in nursing homes, military barracks and jails.

As others tightened controls, China eased more restrictions following the ruling Communist Party's declaration of victory over the coronavirus. Airline flights from Hubei province at the center of the coronavirus outbreak resumed Sunday. Subway and bus service resumed Saturday in the province's hard-hit capital of Wuhan.

Prevention measures turn violent in parts of Africa

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Police fired tear gas at a crowd of Kenyan ferry commuters as the country's first day of a coronavirus curfew slid into chaos. Elsewhere, officers were captured in mobile phone footage whacking people with batons.

Virus prevention measures have taken a violent turn in parts of Africa as countries impose lockdowns and curfews or seal off major cities. Health experts have said that the virus' spread, though still at an early stage, resembles the arc seen in Europe, adding to widespread anxiety.

Abuses of the new measures by authorities are an immediate concern.

Minutes after South Africa's three-week lockdown began Friday, police screamed at homeless people in downtown Johannesburg and went after some with batons. Some citizens reported the police use of rubber bullets. Fifty-five people across the

country were arrested.

In an apparent show of force Saturday, South Africa's military raided a large workers' hostel in the Alexandra township where some residents had defied the lockdown.

In Rwanda, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to impose a lockdown, police have denied that two civilians shot dead March 23 were killed for defying the new measures, saying that the men attacked an officer after being stopped.

And Zimbabwe, where police are widely criticized by human rights groups for deadly crackdowns, is set to enter a three-week lockdown Monday. The country's handful of virus cases already threatens to overwhelm one of the world's most fragile health systems.

In Kenya, outrage over the actions of police was swift.

"We were horrified by excessive use of police force" ahead of the curfew that began Friday night, Amnesty International Kenya and 19 other human rights

groups said in a statement issued Saturday. "We continue to receive testimonies from victims, eyewitnesses and video footage showing police gleefully assaulting members of the public in other parts of the country."

The tear gas caused hundreds of people trying to reach a ferry in the port city of Mombasa ahead of the overnight curfew to touch their faces as they vomited, spat and wiped away tears, increasing the chance of the virus' spread, the rights groups said. Even some health workers reported being intimidated as they tried to provide services after the 7 p.m. curfew.

The police actions were unacceptable and "brutal," the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission said in a separate statement.

"I am appealing to our people to make it very unnecessary for them to engage with police by staying at home," Kenya's Cabinet secretary for health, Mutahi Nguni, said. "I am also urging the police that people must be treated humanely."

Kenya's interior ministry replied to criticism in a statement Saturday, saying that the curfew "is meant to guard against an apparent threat to public health. Breaking it is not only irresponsible, but also puts others in harm's way."

Kenya's government has not said how many people have been arrested. Because courts are also affected by virus prevention measures, all but serious cases will now be dealt with at police stations, the government has said. That means anyone detained for violating curfew faces time in crowded cells.

If Kenya goes further and imposes a lockdown, "there is bound to be violence," said James Shikwati, an economist. People in poor neighborhoods of cities like the capital, Nairobi, will need a way to access food, water and sanitation.

"It will mean for the first day, maybe, they stay indoors," he said. "Then the second day, when they are hungry, they will move out."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Anxiety worsens for patients with disorder

By MALCOLM RITTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK — At first, Jonathan Seidl wasn't worried about the coronavirus despite his anxiety disorder. But that changed.

The 33-year-old digital media strategist from Dallas, who takes medication, said his concern was less about getting sick than about the battering the economy could sustain. Would he be able to feed his family? Would there be a run on food stores? He could not shake his worries.

So he paced. His heart raced. He wanted to go to bed early "because sleep was the only respite." But his sleep was rarely restful. "I would wake up during the night," he said.

The pandemic is worrisome enough for most people. For those with anxiety disorders, it presents a special challenge, especially if they are not receiving treatment.

That's the case for about two-thirds of people with anxiety disorders, says Dr. Bruce Schwartz, president of the American Psychiatric Association. "Those are the ones I'm worried about," he said.

Schwartz, who maintains a practice in New York, said those who are in treatment "do pretty well" in the face of the pandemic.

Still, some psychologists say the have noticed an uptick in symptoms with the spread of the virus. And for some anxiety con-



BRETT SEIDL/AP

Jonathan Seidl talks with his daughter in his home office in Dallas on March 18. Seidl, who has an anxiety disorder and takes medication, said his concern was less about getting the coronavirus than about the economical aspect of the pandemic.

ditions, the recommendations from health officials can appear to feed the problem. People who fear interacting with others now hear advice to avoid crowds. People with obsessive-compulsive disorder who fear germs so much they wash their hands excessively now hear public health authorities encouraging frequent hand-washing.

Standard treatments can deal with coronavirus fears in people

who already had anxiety troubles, helping them to avoid emotional extremes, psychologists say. The goal is accepting an appropriate level of anxiety and living with some uncertainty.

"You don't have to like that any of this is happening to accept that this is our reality right now," said Vaile Wright, director of clinical research and quality at the American Psychological Association. People can focus on what's

under their control, she said, like how to work from home or manage the kids with schools closed.

Mary Alvord, a psychologist in Rockville, Md., said she sees increased anxiety in people whose fear of picking up germs drives them to rituals to ease that fear. Public health messages about cleaning surfaces and washing hands can make some patients think "we were right all along," Alvord said.

So "we have to really deal with reality checks," she said. People with an anxiety disorder tend to focus on "what-if" ideas and worst-case scenarios more than what is going on in the present, she said. "That's what we're trying to get under control."

It's tricky to get people with obsessive-compulsive behavior to focus on taking reasonable precautions without fueling their condition, said Neda Gould, associate director of an anxiety clinic at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. A mental health provider can help them set goals and limits, she said, while techniques for relaxation and meditation can help "turn off that heightened anxiety or stress response ... or at least to turn it down."

Schwartz recommends that people staying home limit the amount of time spent listening to the news, which includes not leaving it on in the background. And he suggests staying busy with projects like cooking with one's family as well as getting outdoors for walks.

The goal of therapy is to help people like Seidl, who says he has found some solace in thinking about life after the outbreak.

"It's one of the things that gives me hope," he said, describing a point where his mind slows down and his heart stops racing. "There is so much relief, and there is so much rest."

Fears for civil rights mount amid virus restrictions

By MICHAEL TARM

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The orders seem prudent in the bid to thwart the spread of the novel coronavirus: Don't go out, don't gather with others and keep your stores closed. But growing segments of the U.S. population say state and federal governments are trampling on freedoms central to American life in the name of protecting public health.

The case is already being made. A churchgoer in New Hampshire says prohibitions against large gatherings violate her religious rights. A Pennsylvania golf course owner argues that gubernatorial edicts shuttering his business amount to illegal seizure of his private property.

If civil libertarians aren't yet sounding alarms, many have their hands hovering over the button.

"So far, we haven't had draconian methods, like armed police blocking people's movement in the streets, surveillance and phone tapping," said Larry Gostin, a public health lawyer at Georgetown University. "But we are seeing lockdowns of millions of citizens like we have never seen before."

He added, "We are on the precipice of something that could transform American values and freedoms."

Questions about the extent of governmental power to impose restrictions haven't been fully resolved since New York cook Mary Mallon, a typhoid carrier, defied public health department orders to isolate. Mallon, better known as Typhoid Mary, lost her legal battle for freedom and ended up effectively imprisoned for 28 years on

"We are seeing lockdowns of millions of citizens like we have never seen before. We are on the precipice of something that could transform American values and freedoms."

Larry Gostin

public health lawyer at Georgetown University

an island cottage, dying there in 1938.

Responses are no longer as severe. But thousands of Americans are already confined to their homes under threat of fines and even jail. Businesses are losing thousands of dollars. Workers are laid off.

One man infected with the coronavirus in Kentucky recently left a hospital and refused to quarantine; an armed county deputy was posted outside his home to ensure the 53-year-old stayed put.

"It's a step I hoped I'd never have to take, but we can't allow one person who we know has the virus to refuse to protect their neighbors," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear told reporters.

Authority to order shutdowns and quarantines inside states rests almost entirely with states under provisions in the U.S. Constitution ceding power not explicitly delegated to the federal government to states.

The federal government itself can't order nationwide quarantines or business closures, courts have ruled over the years. It does, however, have clear power under constitutional clauses regulating commerce to quarantine international travelers or those

traveling state to state who are suspected of carrying an infectious disease.

At least some legal scholars believe the Constitution's Commerce Clause may vest President Donald Trump with powers to impose a national lockdown, but he'd likely have to resort to persuading all 50 states to agree to uniform restrictions if he ever seriously contemplated such a move.

That doesn't appear to be his inclination. He said he was hoping to lift restrictions in a bid to boost the plummeting U.S. economy as early as Easter Sunday, April 12, setting up a standoff with state officials who have said they can't risk it.

"The federal government has done guidelines. And then states can follow the guidelines; states can fashion the guidelines to fit their specific circumstances," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Laws spelling out what steps a state can take during a pandemic can be complex and difficult for judges to sort through. Some haven't been updated in decades, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

And they also differ state to state. The maximum penalty in most states if some-

one violates mandatory quarantines — often backed by a court order — is no more than a year in jail. In Mississippi, it can be 10 years in some circumstances, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

A few Americans are already fed up and have taken their grievances to court by suing their respective states. But a little trickle of legal challenges will likely become a flood if lockdowns drag on for weeks and frustrations mount.

The Pennsylvania lawsuit filed on behalf of the Blueberry Hill Golf Club says Gov. Tom Wolf's power to close businesses under state law is limited to man-made or natural disasters such as oil spills, tornadoes and hurricanes. The coronavirus, it argues, doesn't fall into those categories.

So far, judges have rejected the few legal challenges to state restrictions. Pennsylvania's Supreme Court refused to freeze Wolf's sweeping shutdown orders. In response to complaints, Wolf did ease restrictions on some businesses.

A New Hampshire court issued a similar ruling in the lawsuit by the churchgoer. It upheld Gov. Chris Sununu's ban on large gatherings, the court's written ruling saying it couldn't imagine a more critical public objective "than protecting the citizens of this state and this country from becoming sick and dying from this pandemic."

But courts have never been asked whether the unprecedented lockdowns are constitutional "and in violation of individual rights," Gostin said. A battle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court on that issue, he says, may be looming.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

US agency lists gun sellers as 'critical' infrastructure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A gun rights group is cheering the Trump administration's designation of the firearms industry, including retailers, as part of the nation's critical infrastructure during the coronavirus emergency.

The designation by the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is advisory. The agency notes that the designation does not override determinations by individual jurisdictions of what they consider critical infrastructure sectors.

The firearms industry was not part of the federal agency's original list of critical infrastructure issued just over a week ago. The designation in an update released Saturday follows a brewing legal battle between gun rights groups and California officials.

The group Gun Owners of America said in a statement Saturday that it is encouraged that the Trump administration is not ignoring what it calls "the ability to protect yourself" during the emergency stemming from the pandemic.

Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN — Government officials faced heavy criticism for their response to the coronavirus outbreak in Puerto Rico as details trickled out about the newest death reported Friday in the U.S. territory, which was the first for a resident.

The victim was identified as a 48-year-old teacher at a private school in the popular tourist town of Rincon. The woman was married to a police officer in Rincon, and her death prompted authorities to shut down a police station in the northwestern coastal town and order all 30 officers home for a two-week quarantine. Officials said Friday that the woman had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The situation alarmed tourists and locals alike as some politicians called on Puerto Rico's government to quickly test all those who came in contact with the woman, including students at the Rincon Christian Academy.

"They haven't done what needs to be done," Puerto Rico Rep. Jose Perez said in a phone interview. "They have to act more quickly."

Massachusetts

The number of cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts jumped by more than 1,000 to a total of 4,257, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health said Saturday. The state also had nine more deaths for a total of 44.

The numbers exploded over the course of the last four, five days," Gov. Charlie Baker said

Saturday, according to boston.cbslocal.com.

President Donald Trump on Friday approved a disaster declaration for the state, ordering federal assistance to help with recovery in areas impacted by COVID-19.

The declaration makes federal funding available for crisis counseling for people and for commonwealth, tribal and eligible local governments and some private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, the White House said.

Maryland

BALTIMORE — Maryland's governor said Saturday night that a nursing home in the state has been struck by an outbreak of COVID-19 which includes 66 positive cases and 11 hospitalizations.

Gov. Larry Hogan also said in a news release that Maryland recorded five more deaths statewide, bringing the total to 10. Earlier Saturday, state officials had reported that Maryland has around 1,000 positive cases.

Hogan said that state and local health officials are at the Pleasant View Nursing Home in Mount Airy working on ways to protect the staff and residents.

"Multiple state agencies are on the scene and working closely with the local health department and the facility as they take urgent steps to protect additional residents and staff who may have been exposed," he said.

North Carolina

RALEIGH — Gun rights activists filed a lawsuit against North Carolina sheriff who temporarily halted handgun permits amid a surge of interest during the coronavirus outbreak.

The lawsuit against Wake County Sheriff Gerald Baker was filed Friday in federal court by Grass Roots North Carolina, one of its members, the Second Amendment Foundation and Firearms Policy Coalition.

The lawsuit asked a judge to force Baker to start issuing pistol permits again, arguing that state law requires him to process the permits. Under normal circumstances, a sheriff can deny an individual application for certain reasons, but state law doesn't give the authority to halt all applications even if there are extenuating circumstances, the lawsuit argues.

Baker said Tuesday that he was suspending the issuance of pistol permits until April 30 to prevent the spread of germs at his office because of a backlog of applications. His office said that pistol permit requests have increased



Sue Osocki/AP

Customer Don McCombs, left, gestures to cashier Laleah Johnson, right, through a plexiglass shield at a Homeland grocery store Friday in Oklahoma City. Many grocery stores have installed the shields due to concerns over COVID-19.

dramatically amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

South Carolina

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's governor is aiming to protect first responders during the new coronavirus outbreak, ordering that anyone calling 911 be asked if anyone near them has symptoms of COVID-19.

In a new executive order issued Saturday, Gov. Henry McMaster required 911 emergency dispatchers to ask anyone requesting calls for service whether they or anyone at their location has tested positive or is symptomatic for COVID-19.

The order also authorized the state's public colleges and universities, already doing coursework remotely, to finish out the 2020 spring semester via virtual learning. And it directs the continued closure of public K-12 school districts throughout the state.

The order also activated the South Carolina National Guard, restricted visits to nursing homes, prisons and jails, activated anti-price gouging laws and gave emergency powers to the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

North Dakota

FARGO — North Dakota officials began outlining worst-case scenarios — including building temporary hospitals in Bismarck and Fargo — after health officials Saturday confirmed the highest number of COVID-19 cases in a 24-hour period.

The state listed 26 new cases of the coronavirus between Friday and Saturday afternoons, raising the total number of positive tests to 94. Gov. Doug Burgum said during a news briefing that the number might be closer to 1,000 cases, applying some models that have been used around the world.

"We were very flat in the be-

ginning," Burgum said. "Now it appears we are on this climb upward that other states have seen."

Burgum said that modeling should become more precise once that state tops 100 cases, but revealed estimates Saturday which showed the state having anywhere between 600 and 1,300 positive tests three weeks down the road. He urged residents to follow state guidelines in order to stay on the low end of that model.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — More than a dozen unincorporated Clark County businesses have had their business licenses suspended for remaining open during a government-ordered shutdown in Nevada as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The county Business License Department has issued emergency suspensions between Saturday and Wednesday after each of the businesses disregarded Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak's order to shut down all nonessential businesses in the state.

Sisolak issued the 30-day order March 17 to reduce social activity and interaction as the state of Nevada expects an increase in COVID-19 infections, the Las Vegas Sun reported.

The 14 businesses shut down by the county included five liquor establishments, two smoke shops, two car washes, a furniture store, a shoe retailer and a gym, county officials said.

Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — The mayors of Tulsa and Oklahoma City on Saturday issued shelter-in-place orders for residents amid the coronavirus outbreak.

"We want to leave no doubt with our residents that the safest course of action during this public health crisis is to stay home, unless you are engaged in an es-

sential job, essential errand or outdoor physical activity," Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt said in a press release.

The Oklahoma Department of Health said Saturday that 15 people with the coronavirus had died, an increase from eight the day earlier. Officials said that of the newly reported deaths, there were two in Cleveland County, two in Tulsa County and one each in Oklahoma, Sequoyah and Wagoner counties. The woman who died in Sequoyah County was between the ages of 50 to 64, while the others were over 65.

Earlier in the week, Gov. Kevin Stitt issued an order that required the elderly and other at-risk groups to stay home except for essential errands.

Tennessee

MEMPHIS — Tourism officials in Memphis said that the Beale Street Music Festival and the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest have been rescheduled for the fall after they were postponed by the new coronavirus outbreak.

Memphis in May officials said in a statement Saturday that the barbecue cooking competition has been reset for Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. The music festival will now be held Oct. 16 through Oct. 18.

Both events are the cornerstones of the city's monthlong tourist event in May. They attract music fans and barbecue cooking teams from around the world.

The Lumineers, Three 6 Mafia, The Avett Brothers, Lil Wayne and The Smashing Pumpkins were among the musical acts scheduled to perform at the music festival before the cancellation. It was not immediately clear if the performers who were set to appear on the original dates in May will be part of the lineup in September.

NATION

Tornado tears through northeast Arkansas

Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — A tornado ripped through northeast Arkansas on Saturday, leaving six people hurt after hitting commercial and residential areas in the college town of Jonesboro.

The six people reported injured were taken to a local hospital with minor injuries, Jonesboro 9-111 Director Jeff Presley said. The tornado did major damage at the Mall at Turtle Creek and Jonesboro Municipal Airport.

Like much of the rest of the world, Jonesboro is working to fight the spread of COVID-19. Because of that, most stores in the Mall at Turtle Creek were closed Saturday to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Severe weather could have been much worse if not for that, Presley said.

"At 5 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon that place would've been packed, and at this point there was hardly anyone in there,"



QUENTIN WINSTINE, THE JONESBORO SUN/AP

Arkansas State Police and other first responders survey the damage in Jonesboro, Ark., on Saturday after a tornado touched down.

Presley said. "It's a blessing in disguise."

Power was out in sections of the city, which affects the city's traf-

fic lights. Wreckage tossed about by the twister also blocked roads. The mayor issued a 7 p.m. curfew, and authorities asked people

not to drive around.

The storm also derailed a train, Presley said. Crews were examining damage and trying to deter-

mine whether it had been hauling anything hazardous.

The National Weather Service tweeted a video from the Arkansas Department of Transportation that showed a large tornado dropping from storm clouds in Jonesboro.

U.S. Rep. Rick Crawford, who represents much of eastern Arkansas, said on Twitter that a tornado tore through "the heart of town" and asked for prayers for first responders. Crawford said that his staff and family were safe.

Jonesboro is home to Arkansas State University. The university tweeted that the campus was not damaged.

Forecasters with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., warned that a severe weather outbreak was possible later Saturday for much of the central U.S.

The National Weather Service reported other possible tornadoes Saturday in Illinois and Iowa.

Whales face more fatal ship collisions as waters warm

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Climate change is imperiling the world's largest animals by increasing the likelihood of fatal collisions between whales and big ships that ply the same waters.

Warming ocean temperatures are causing some species of whales in pursuit of food to stray more frequently into shipping lanes, scientists say.

The phenomenon has already increased ship strikes involving

rare North Atlantic right whales on the East Coast and giant blue whales on the West Coast, researchers have said. The number of strikes off of California increased threefold in 2018 — to at least 10 — compared to previous years.

When whales are killed in a ship collision, they often sink and don't always wash ashore. So scientists and conservationists have said that fatal ship strikes are dramatically underreported.

Vessel strikes are among the

most frequent causes of accidental death in large whales, along with entanglement in fishing gear. Conservationists, scientists and animal lovers have pushed for the International Maritime Organization to step up to protect the whales, but it won't happen without cooperation from the worldwide shipping industry.

For the right whales, which number only about 400 and have lost more than 10% of their population in just a few years, the death toll is driving them closer

to extinction, said Nick Record, senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay, Maine.

At least three right whales died from ship strikes in 2019 — a small number, but still dangerously high for so small a population. All three deaths were documented in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence off Canada, where scientists have said that the whales are spending more time feeding as waters off New England warm.

Scientists have said that the

changing ocean environment with global warming is causing right whales and some other species to stray outside of protected zones designed to keep them safe from ships.

"When one of their main food resources goes away, it means they start exploring new areas for food," Record said. "And that means they're encountering all new sources of mortality because they are going into these places where they are not protected."

Google, Oracle and Trump put on Supreme Court hold by virus

Bloomberg

The coronavirus pandemic has put a major portion of the U.S. Supreme Court's docket on indefinite hold, including a multi-billion-dollar clash between software giants Google and Oracle Corp. and cases that could affect President Donald Trump's re-election chances.

What was supposed to have been a drama-filled spring at the high court has instead become a season of waiting, especially for the lawyers and litigants in 20 ar-

guments that had been scheduled for March and April.

The cases include fights over congressional and grand jury subpoenas for Trump's financial records — clashes that need to be resolved in the court's current term to give his critics any chance of seeing the documents before the November election. Also on hold is a clash over the Electoral College for presidential elections and an \$8 billion copyright dispute between Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Oracle.

It's not clear whether the jus-

tices are still hoping to resolve those cases in their current term, possibly by forgoing argument or by breaking tradition and hearing arguments by phone or online. Lawyers have said that they've received no guidance from the court on the subject, though briefing deadlines are still in force. The term normally ends in late June, although that time frame is now in doubt as well.

"As far as oral arguments go, we're just waiting upon the court," said Jay Sekulow, the lead lawyer for Trump in the president's bid

to block a New York grand jury subpoena for the president's financial information. The case had been set for March 31.

The grand jury subpoena case shows the difficulty of holding arguments in the near future. Sekulow's adversary would be Carey Dunne, a lawyer in the Manhattan district attorney's office whose city is at the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak. The White House has said that anyone traveling from New York should self-quarantine for 14 days.

And yet the subpoena cases are

also among the most time-sensitive, at least from the standpoint of the Democrats seeking the information. Lower courts required Trump's banks and accountants to turn over the records, which could include his tax returns, but those rulings are on hold.

"Delaying this case is effectively picking a side," seven liberal groups led by Demand Justice said Wednesday. "Every day that Trump is allowed to keep his tax returns secret is a day that he has won and the public has lost."

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WORLD

Russian oil company transfers Venezuela assets to state firm

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
AND JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's Rosneft has transferred its assets in Venezuela to a company fully owned by Vladimir Putin's government, a move apparently intended to shield Russia's largest oil producer from U.S. sanctions while Moscow continues showing support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in the wake of a U.S. narcotics indictment.

The sale, announced Saturday, follows the recent sanctioning of two Rosneft subsidiaries in an effort to cut a critical lifeline that Russia extended to Maduro after the U.S. government made it illegal for Americans to buy crude from Venezuela.

Rosneft, led by longtime Putin associate Igor Sechin, said its move means "all assets and trading operations of Rosneft in Venezuela and/or connected with Venezuela will be disposed of, terminated or liquidated." It did not name the new company that would take over the assets, which include multiple joint ventures, oil-field services companies and

trading activities.

The move comes at a critical time for Maduro's government. The spread of the coronavirus threatens to overwhelm Venezuela's already collapsed health system while depriving its crippled economy of oil revenue on which it almost exclusively depends for hard currency.

Maduro said later Saturday during a call to a state television program that Putin had assured him of Moscow's "comprehensive, strategic support" to Venezuela "in all areas." He said the message was relayed by Russia's ambassador to Caracas.

Amid the pandemic, which has claimed two victims and infected 118 others in Venezuela, the U.S. is stepping up pressure to remove Maduro. On Thursday, it made public indictments against the socialist leader and several top aides for allegedly leading a narco-terrorist conspiracy that converted the Venezuelan state into a platform for violent drug cartels, money launderers and Colombian guerrillas who sent 250 metric tons of cocaine a year to the U.S. Francisco Monaldi, a Venezuelan oil expert at Rice Univer-

sity in Houston, said Rosneft's move would provide protection from U.S. retaliation against the company and its two largest minority shareholders, BP and the government-run Qatar Investment Authority.

"They didn't want to lose those assets right now," Monaldi said. "It seems like a logical step."

But Russ Dallen, head of Caracas Capital Markets brokerage, cautioned that it was too early to know for sure whether the move was intended to bolster Maduro.

"We don't know whether the new state entity is a cemetery corporation, where companies go to die, or whether the Russians are simply doing it to take Rosneft, which is their crown jewel and provides a large portion of Russia's income, out of the way of sanctions and Putin will use the new company to continue to help Maduro," he said.

In February, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on a Rosneft subsidiary based in Geneva that sells crude to European customers. U.S. authorities vowed to keep applying pressure, and hit a second Rosneft subsidiary with sanctions earlier



ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP

A man waits in line to fill his car with gas in Caracas, Venezuela. Russian oil company Rosneft handed its Venezuelan assets to a Russian state firm amid U.S. sanctions while Russia continues to support Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro.

this month. Rosneft spokesman Mikhail Leontyev said that the company's decision was aimed at "protecting the interests of our shareholders" and that he expects the U.S. will now waive sanctions against its subsidiaries.

"We really have the right to expect American regulators to fulfill their public promises," he added in remarks compiled by Russia's Tass news agency.

The U.S. was first among nearly

60 nations to recognize opposition leader Juan Guaido a year ago as Venezuela's rightful leader. The international coalition considers Maduro illegitimate after 2018 elections widely deemed fraudulent because the most popular opposition candidates were banned from running against him. Russia's support has helped Maduro to face down U.S.-backed efforts to unseat him.

Officials: Virus rumors sparked Thailand prison riot

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Officials in Thailand say a riot at a prison in a northeastern province was set off when inmates plotting to escape spread false rumors that several prisoners were infected with the

coronavirus.

Fires were set in parts of Buriram Prison during a riot Sunday in which about 100 prisoners took part, and gunshots were fired in the operation to quash the violence. The facility houses about

2,100 inmates.

Corrections Department Director-General Narat Sawettanan said no one was killed in the uproar but several people were injured.

Seven inmates who had escaped were recaptured, said Narat.

Justice Minister Somsak Thepstutin said the riot was instigated by a small group who circulated the rumor about coronavirus infections to create a situation in which they could escape.

Thailand's Public Health Min-

istry previously announced that two prisoners at a facility it didn't specify were found to be infected with the virus, and the Corrections Department on March 18 banned inmates' relatives nationwide from prison visits for 14 days.



SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market





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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Doughnuts with doctor's face selling 'like crazy'

NY ROCHESTER — An upstate New York doughnut shop is featuring the likeness of the doctor leading the country's battle with the coronavirus on its sweet treats.

Donuts Delite in Rochester began selling doughnuts with Dr. Anthony Fauci's face, surrounded by white frosting and topped off with patriotic sprinkles.

The exclusive treats have been selling "like crazy" since the store put them on display, according to Nick Semeraro, franchisee of the cafe.

The shop's decision was inspired by the doctor's straightforward communication style and calm demeanor while he's been advising millions of Americans amid a pandemic.

Ice out comes early in annual contest

VT NEWPORT— A big board has officially gone through the ice on Lake Memphremagog in northern Vermont, ending the sixth annual ice out contest.

The board broke through the ice more than three weeks earlier than last year, the Caledonian Record reported. The contest is a fundraiser for the splash pad project and playground upgrades at a city park, with people buying raffle tickets to guess when the board will fall through the ice. The person who made the closest guess without going past the time this year gets a \$1,244 cash prize.

Officials: Men created explosions to rob ATMs

FL TAMPA — Two men are facing federal charges for using small explosions to rob ATMs in the Tampa Bay area, authorities said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Tampa charged Mawdo Malik Salah, 33, of Clearwater, and Kirk Douglas Johnson, 34, of Anderson, S.C., with conspiring to commit arson. They each face up to 30 years in prison.

Salah and Johnson took nearly \$70,000 from several Florida ATMs between November and January and vandalized others without taking any cash, according to a criminal complaint.

Investigators believe the men injected some type of flammable fuel into the machines and used a spark to ignite it.

Teen wrestling champ body-slams kidnapper

NM LAS CRUCES— A teen wrestling champion helped spot a kidnapping and assault near Las Cruces by pinning a man to the ground until deputies arrived, authorities said.

Mayfield High School student Canaan Bower, 16, who won the District 3-5A championship in the 285-pound heavyweight division, was lauded as a hero after controlling suspect Daniel Arroyo Beltran, 22, of Phoenix, the Las Cruces Sun News reports.

Donna Ana County deputies ar-



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Balancing act

Sam Taylor and Julia Rue practice acro yoga, a combination of yoga and acrobatics, in The Public Garden in Boston on Friday. The yoga studio where they usually practice is closed due to concern about the coronavirus.

rested Beltran after witnesses told authorities he tried to kidnap three children at a gas station.

Bower's dad, Troy Bower, told the Sun-News that his son told him he body-slammed the man and got him in a chokehold until deputies arrived.

Lucky few spot grizzly before park closes

WY JACKSON — Grizzly bears are emerging from their dens in Grand Teton National Park and a handful of people were able to spot a well-known bear called Bruno a few days before the park closed indefinitely.

Photographer Jack Bayles was among those who saw the big male bear. Grand Teton and nearby Yellowstone National Parks have closed to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Bayles had heard Bruno was out of his den and went to northern Grand Teton, where he saw the bear emerge onto a road.

Governor signs plastic bag ban into law

WA OLYMPIA— A law that bans single-use plastic bags in the state was

THE CENSUS

1,980

the number of students Harvard University accepted out of more than 40,000 applicants for its 2024 graduating class. The Cambridge, Mass., school said it accepted students from every state and 92 nations. Harvard's admission rate of 4.92% makes it one of the most selective in the nation. Officials said the school fielded 40,248 applications this year, down from more than 43,000 last year. Accepted students have until May 1 to decide if they will enroll.

signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee, in what he called "a victory for our environment."

The legislation, which goes into effect Jan. 1, bans retailers from giving out single-use plastic carryout bags and requires an 8-cent charge for other bags.

The fee would increase to 12 cents in 2026.

The legislation also requires paper bags to be made from 40% recycled material.

Corrections officer set fire to apartment

OH BROOK PARK— A corrections officer tried to kill his family members by setting their apartment on fire, authorities said.

Neil Osborne, 37, was charged with attempted murder and aggravated arson following a dis-

pute in Brook Park.

Emergency responders went to the Holland Garden Apartment complex after someone reported a disturbance in one of the units. Another 911 call came in that the same apartment was on fire.

Osborne and two other people were evacuated from the unit, and none of them were injured.

Osborne has been a corrections officer with Cuyahoga County since 2007.

Aquarium debuts better right whale catalog

MA BOSTON — An aquarium in Boston has upgraded its directory of more than a million images of one of the world's rarest whales.

The New England Aquarium keeps a database of photographs and physical details called the

North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog. There are only about 400 of the whales left in the world. The catalog has images of more than 750 whales and goes back to 1935.

The aquarium said the upgrade improves an interface that was 15 years old. The improved database is also more accessible to the public, aquarium representatives said.

Flood victims owed over \$300 million sue state

LA BATON ROUGE — A group of Louisiana flood victims who have been owed over \$300 million for the past decade have filed a lawsuit against the state for failure to pay.

The latest lawsuit comes after residents won a lawsuit in 2003 which forced the construction of a local highway blocked drainage of the Tangipahoa River. The court ruled the state failed to conduct needed studies on the river, and ordered Louisiana to pay millions in damages plus other costs and interest.

The state government has not paid the flood victims citing a lack of funds. Now, the total amount owed by Louisiana taxpayers exceeds \$320 million.

From wire reports

FACES



Warner Bros.

Ready FOR A DIFFERENT Freddie

Englund ready to give up iconic 'Nightmare' role

BY ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

Robert Englund, the actor who turned Freddy Krueger into a fearsome household name, says he's looking forward to someone else taking a stab at reviving the "Nightmare on Elm Street" franchise.

Englund said it's time for Krueger's razor-fingered glove to permanently pass to another actor.

"I'm too old," said Englund, 72. "I know that everything gets remade eventually."

Englund played Krueger, a murderous villain who stalks his victims through their dreams, in eight films and occasionally on TV. He acknowledges a few years ago he thought he might've had the stamina for one more "Nightmare" movie, but compares the situation to "an athlete who can't get out of bed Monday morning."

He's eager to see someone else up the ante.

"Now with the new technologies, films are gonna get remade because we can do special effects even better and more sophisticated, and I'm kind of looking forward to seeing a new 'Nightmare' film where they can really go crazy with a dream landscape, with the nightmare sequences, using some of the techniques used in 'Inception' or in that old Robin Williams film 'What Dreams May Come.'"

"A Nightmare on Elm Street" was revived in 2010 with Jackie Earle Haley as Freddy and also starring Rooney Mara, Katie Cassidy and Kelan Lutz. It received poor reviews but was a box office success, earning more than \$115 million worldwide.

Wes Craven directed the first film in 1984, and

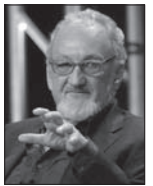
one of the stars was a then-unknown named Johnny Depp.

"Johnny dressed very rockabilly then. He had the best hair," recalled Englund. "He called everyone sir and ma'am." As for his favorite "Nightmare" film, Englund cites the seventh installment: "Wes Craven's New Nightmare."

"It was really a valentine to fans. We all kind of play ourselves in it and we make fun of ourselves; we make fun of Hollywood a bit. But we also made it kind of meta; you know it's a movie within a movie," he said. "It was a little ahead of its time, but after the 'Screen' franchise opened, a lot of the fans revisited 'Wes Craven's New Nightmare' and they really picked up on the hidden Easter eggs and the sort of meta structure of it."

Englund is currently hosting the new Travel Channel series "True Terror with Robert Englund."

"From headlines about haunted houses to accounts of people being buried alive, Englund digs up these old stories with the help of historians.



AP

"I'm too old. I know that everything gets remade eventually," says Robert Englund, 72, shown in 2018.

National Registry adds albums by Dr. Dre, Selena

From wire reports

Dr. Dre's classic debut rap album "The Chronic," Selena's sophomore release "Ven Conmigo" and the worldwide disco hit "Y.M.C.A." by the Village People are among 25 recordings being inducted to the National Recording Registry.

The Library of Congress announced Wednesday that Tina Turner's "Private Dancer," Glen Campbell's "Wichita Lineman" — written by Jimmy Webb — and Whitney Houston's No. 1 hit and cover of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You" are some of the titles tapped for preservation this year.

The library selects titles for preservation because of their cultural and historic importance to the American soundscape. The titles have to be at least 10 years old.

Others that made the list include Russ Hodge's play-by-play of the National League tiebreaker between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1951; the original 1964 Broadway cast recording of "Fiddler on the Roof"; the announcement of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy by the Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor during the recording of a live performance on Nov. 22, 1963; songs from "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"; field recordings of more than 50 hours of traditional Afghan music; and albums by Dusty Springfield, Cheap Trick and Maria Schneider.

Country music special lineup announced

The Academy of Country Music announced an all-star list of performers for its at-home country music special airing on CBS on April 5, in lieu of its delayed awards show. Shania Twain, Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani, Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban, Carrie Underwood and Eric Church are among 23 performers that will be featured in "ACM

Presents: Our Country."

The ACMs delayed the scheduled awards show to Sept. 16.

Other stars who will be performing at home for the special include Kelsea Ballerini, Dierks Bentley, Kane Brown and John Legend, Luke Bryan, Brandi Carlile, Luke Combs, Sheryl Crow, Florida Georgia Line, Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town, Tim McGraw, Old Dominion, Brad Paisley and Darius Rucker and Thomas Rhett.

Disney Plus to air Markle elephant doc

Meghan Markle has found her first post-Megxit entertainment gig in Disney+ure's "Elephant," a documentary launching next month on Disney Plus.

Disney announced March 26 that the film, narrated by Markle, will land on its streaming platform April 3, along with a second, previously announced nature documentary, "Dolphin Reef," narrated by Natalie Portman.

Billed in the announcement as "Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex," the former "Suits" actress will tell the story of "African elephant Shani and her spirited son Jomo as their herd make an epic journey hundreds of miles across the vast Kalahari Desert ... led by their great matriarch, Gaia."

Other news

■ Stage, movie and TV character actor **Mark Blum**, who had roles in the films "Desperately Seeking Susan" and "Crocodile Dundee," died last week from complications from the coronavirus. He was 69.

■ **Richard Reeves**, an author and syndicated columnist who wrote about politics for more than 50 years and published books on Richard Nixon, John F. Kennedy and other American presidents, died March 26 at age 83. Reeves worked as a journalist for much of the 1960s, including several years with The New York Times.

Courtney Cox catching up with 'Friends' while in quarantine

BY CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

Are you binge-watching "Friends" to stay sane during the coronavirus shut-in?

So is Courtney Cox.

The actress, who played the lovably rigid Monica in the hit sitcom, appeared remotely on the March 25 home edition of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and revealed she's been making productive use of her time in quarantine by brushing up on her "Friends" knowledge.

"People love the show so much, I decided to binge-watch 'Friends,'" Cox said, clarifying that she recently purchased the series in full on Amazon Prime. "I just started Season 1. It's really good."

Cox and her former costars — Jennifer Aniston, David Schwimmer, Matthew Perry, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc — were supposed to film HBO Max's "Friends" reunion special last week. That is, until the pandemic shut down TV production along with just about everything else in entertainment.

The special, executive produced by Cox and the rest of the gang, was billed as an unscripted conversation between the show's main ensemble, shot on the show's original soundstage at the Warner Bros. studio lot.

When they do eventually reunite for the highly anticipated program, it's safe to say that Cox will be much better prepared.

"I don't remember even being on the show. I have such a bad

memory," she said. "I remember, obviously, loving everybody there and having fun. And I remember certain times in my life that I was there, but I don't remember episodes ... I fail every [trivia] test."

At least she could recall one thing: her character's name.

"It's Monica," she said. "I do know that."

Later in the segment, the "Cougar Town" alum proved just how limited her "Friends" knowledge is by going head to head in a trivia match against a superfan — who happens to be Kimmel's cousin.

Despite failing miserably, Cox seemed confident that her new viewing plans would succeed in refreshing her memory.

"By the end of this quarantine, I'm going to know so much more."



Kirk McKoy, Los Angeles Times/TNS

Actress Courtney Cox is confined to home, just like many others.

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OPINION

How coronavirus infection shrank my world

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

Once received the lavish gift of hearing a sermon preached by the renowned Fred Craddock, whose pulpit style influenced generations of Christian ministers, though very few ever approached his seemingly effortless mastery. Craddock believed the lesson is best shared through the journey of a story. The lesson he shared that day was the 30th Psalm, as stout a reassurance as human grit ever polished to beauty. "Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

In his homespun mid-American mountain drawl, Craddock took his congregation back to a long, delicious night in his boyhood, as a fever boiled off terrifying visions in the trees and mists outside his bedroom window. Ghosts and "haints" stalked the fearful night — restless, relentless spirits known to hound their victims to death by sheer exhaustion.

Oh, what a night it was for the tossing, turning little boy, half-dreaming, half-hallucinating. Each dark hour seemed to unfold into another even darker; the bedsheet tangled and clutching; shadows raking across the bedroom ceiling. But daylight and the fever finally broke as the. The lonely suffering of the soulful boy lifted. His matted head found that the blazing pillow was cool on the other side, and he heard birdsong and dew dripping from sun-sparkled boughs. Joy came with the morning.

My experience of COVID-19 has involved an unwelcome multitude of haints and goblins. Weeping has tarried for the

night — more than one night, through 10 days — now, of doubt and disappointment. It's not the fever and malaise one cries over; though, I don't think even little 8-year-old Fred Craddock cried in his illness.

What will make a grown man cry is the way sickness shrinks his world. Whether it is an annoying affliction, like my "mild to moderate" coronavirus infection, or a truly catastrophic illness, the sort of suffering that makes my virus a mere trifle, sickness strips away the illusion of adequacy. One is getting the job done until — poof! No longer. Which raises the question of just how adequate one was to begin with.

What good am I in this condition to my four children who are trying to navigate this upside-down world? Their work is vanishing. Their schools have closed. Their plans are up in smoke. They're too young to know that this is what life does to us. When it is not lavishing goodness, life is posing tests — and only later do we realize that the tests were the greatest goodness. My kids could use a father now, but theirs has been huddled on a bed, inert on a sofa, or shuffling past with unseen haints before his eyes.

I have a wife whose own health is less than perfect. We've worked out a mutual dependency. Suddenly, I'm not holding up my end of the bargain. Worse, I'm a threat, a carrier, a vector of tiny terrors.

The gift of this unpleasant infection has forced me to go past self-pity and weeping to a humbler understanding of myself and my place in a community. My weakness is my community's strength. The less am good for, the more magnificent my family and friends become. The house is full

of food. My email is miles deep in attaboys and warm wishes. I ask for a blood-oxygen monitor; 30 minutes later, it's on the porch. Doctors I've never met coach me through each step of the recovery. Readers who disagree with every word I write send assurance that they're praying for me, and friends who don't pray at all promise a double portion of whatever their strongest motif might be.

The pandemic is helping us to see how our individual haint-filled nights are part of a larger life-force. Health is not a purely individual concern. My helplessness in recovery can be precisely what the community needs: I am surviving the virus but not spreading it. Some of us are chosen to suffer, some to console; some to isolate, others to encourage the frail; some to give, some to receive; some to be broken, others to be healers. We are still at the beginning of this terrible teaching. We need to respect it and give it the fullness of time. Weeping may tarry for the night.

But joy comes in the morning. Joy comes with the breaking of fevers and easing of fears. Joy comes with the battles bravely won or bravely lost. With the sacrifice of self to the service of others, joy comes.

We won't be the same country that awakens from this illness, but I believe we can be a stronger country, with a greater appreciation for the parts we each play in the only community we've got. We've dwelt too long with the dark and fitful shadows of our feeble times. We can rise up from the sickbed and walk into the day.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

The risk in what a Texas official is proposing

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON
South Carolina author Josephine Humphreys recently posed a philosophical question on Facebook: If you're a doctor and you have 10 patients with coronavirus but can only save nine, who do you let die?

It is often the writer's purpose to explore questions that are otherwise imponderable. William Styron broke the world's heart with a similar question in his novel "Sophie's Choice." Set in Nazi Germany, a Jewish mother, Sophie, was given a choice by her German captors: Which of her children would she allow to live?

Styron cuts so close to the bone that one wonders, why even think of such a thing? Because that's what artists are compelled to do.

On a lighter note, novelist Christopher Buckley teased out the idea in "Boomsday" that, in light of Social Security trust fund shenanigans, baby boomers should kill themselves — a satirical idea that was embraced in the book and, now almost prophetically, seems to be taking hold in the swamp we call Washington, D.C.

Death is too much with us today. The U.S. now leads the world in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases. By the time I finish this column, more will have died of the plague we've come to know as COVID-19. As most of us have turned inward, staying inside our houses and keeping our distances elsewhere, we try to absorb the news that there aren't enough masks for medical personnel or enough hospital beds and, most horrifying, ventilators for the number of patients who eventually will need them.

Suddenly, Humphreys' question is not so

strange.

We know that elderly people are the most vulnerable to the virus's ravages, as are those with pre-existing conditions that make recovery more vexing. Smokers, asthmatics, diabetics, people who are very obese — all are more likely to have severe symptoms than people who are healthier.

With limited supplies of ventilators, who gets them and who does not? More to the point, who doesn't get one and dies as a result? Sunday morning, I asked what I can bring us back to Humphreys' question and what seems the obvious answer — the elderly would be either denied more often than people who are younger, or at least asked, pretty please, might you be ready to go?

In recent days, there have been subtle and not-so-subtle nudges in that direction.

Most overt was the suggestion by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick that many grandparents, apparently including Patrick himself, would rather die than allow social distancing to crush the economy. He told Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson that he'd rather take the risk of being infected by the coronavirus than have his grandchildren inherit an economic collapse.

"No one reached out to me and said, 'As a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren?' ... If that is the exchange, I'm all in," Patrick said.

The lieutenant governor claimed that he knew many others who feel just as he does about getting the country back to work, including Donald Trump, though it seems unlikely that the president would volunteer to die for anyone's sake. Narcissism, not to mention the survival instinct, doesn't work

that way.

Meanwhile, I've been hearing a lot from doctors and others about "advance directives," the documents by which healthy people create binding directives that tell their wishes for medical treatment should they become incapacitated and unable to speak for themselves. Most healthy people, especially the young, probably think they'd rather not be put on a ventilator, but then along came the coronavirus, and perhaps they're not so sure anymore. (Time for me to update a directive I created in my 20s!)

Calvin Alexander, a critical care doctor in Shreveport, La., reported to me by email that he "not infrequently" treats critically ill elderly patients in intensive care who, ignorant of advance directives, opt out of ventilators and other life support once their options are explained.

With recent discussions about rationing resources, Alexander urged a national discussion about advance directives. "We need to make sure we use them (ventilators) on patients that want them in the first place."

No doubt, he's right about the conversation, but I'm not sure he or Patrick are correct about the degree of sacrificial altruism afoot in our retirement communities. Four of my close neighbors, all in their 80s, recently survived coronavirus, and I'm confident they were grateful for medical treatment, including ventilators.

By all means, let's encourage thoughtful planning for end-of-life concerns. But let's also beware insidious messaging that encourages our older citizens to sacrifice themselves for the young. After all, everyone eventually gets old, if we're lucky.

And, to rephrase Humphreys' question: Whose grandparents should die — yours or mine?

OPINION

Can Wuhan lead in a good way this time?

By XINYUAN YU

Special to The Washington Post

Patients waiting to be tested, health care workers making masks and face shields from scratch, people getting laid off as the economy stumbles and government leaders struggling to assuage the panic.

This is what New York, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States, looks like today. And this was what my hometown Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in central China, looked like two months ago.

In February, I watched from afar as the coronavirus brought Wuhan to its knees. At the peak, hundreds died each day. Yet for many in the United States and elsewhere, the crisis felt distant and foreign.

It's painful now to see echoes of what Wuhan went through around the world. But just as my hometown offered a warning of how a pandemic begins and spreads — a warning that most countries, including the United States, squandered — it can offer a clue about how society can begin to emerge from a lockdown. After a two-month shutdown, Wuhan is gearing up to gradually restore normal life on April 8.

Wuhan residents were caught off guard in early January when the coronavirus started spreading like wildfire. During the darkest time when people swarmed to the hospitals, I lost count of how many heart-breaking videos I saw on social media of patients lying on the floor, families weeping over relatives who died before they could get tested, and doctors and nurses working with minimal protection.

On Feb. 7, the entire nation mourned Li Wenliang, a whistleblower doctor who was reprimanded by police for warning his colleagues about a SARS-like virus. Sadness and anger spread as people demanded apologies from officials who failed to alert the public in time and suppressed the full



XIAO YU, XINHUA/AP

Workers labor on a Dongfeng Passenger Vehicle Co. assembly line in Wuhan, China, on Tuesday. After a two-month shutdown, Wuhan is gearing up to restore normal life.

scale of the crisis.

Wuhan shut down the city on Jan. 23 and sealed off residential complexes as early as Feb. 8. Public transportation was suspended, and private cars were ordered off the roads. The next week, Wuhan registered 15,152 positive cases in a single day.

The city mobilized to build two makeshift hospitals with about 3,000 beds in a fortnight, and turned 16 schools, stadiums and hotels into quarantine centers with about 13,000 beds. Communist Party members like my uncle were sent to guard remote residential complexes to ensure people with no essential duties stayed indoors. More than 20,000 health workers from 29 provinces went to Wuhan to support the city at great personal risk.

As the city focused its efforts on the coronavirus, there were trade-offs and costs. Hospitals, including some treating cancer patients, had to vacate beds to make space for COVID-19 patients, which meant many urgent treatments were disrupted. Some people with even the mildest cold-like symptoms were forced into home quarantine with their doors sealed or loaded into buses headed for quarantine centers.

Eventually, the number of new cases stabilized to a few hundred a day, almost four weeks after total lockdown. Though the numbers might not have captured the full picture — China's tally does not include asymptomatic patients, for example — the spread of the virus seemed to have subsided.

By this point, the outbreak had changed people's lives profoundly. The entire country, from major international firms like iPhone manufacturer Foxconn to China's leading electric carmaker BYD, pivoted to producing medical supplies. Telecom companies tracked the movement of Wuhan residents, who reported their vitals on a health bar code that flashed green when one was allowed to go out. Video gaming and online education businesses boomed. Everyone, even the elderly, learned to order food and groceries in chat groups for community volunteers to deliver.

Those who did not contract the coronavirus had to endure either loneliness or intense daily squabbles. Occasionally, one would hear a random cry of release from neighbors and shrug it off.

Two months after the lockdown, there have been more than 40,000 recoveries and 2,500 deaths in Wuhan. Now, the city is gearing up for a reboot. Last Monday, buses ran empty to test out the routes. Cleaners disinfected the subway for operation. Some residential complexes gave each family one entry permit per day to buy groceries; those with zero cases allowed residents to roam freely in the compound. And an inspection team has been evaluating applications to reopen businesses, ensuring offices follow precautionary measures such as temperature-taking at the entrance, social distancing lines in hallways and elevators, and disinfecting routines.

There was a rare moment of relief as things improved, but there are still fears that a second wave of cases could emerge. Many are reacting by continuing to self-isolate. Still, as the city slowly recovers from the horror, the rest of the world can look to the resilient people of Wuhan for reassurance that when there's a beginning, there will be an end.

Xinyuan Yu is a journalist from Wuhan based in Washington.

We might see a coronavirus baby blip – not a boom

By RICHARD W. EVANS

Special to The Washington Post

Thanks to the coronavirus, Americans have been locked out of their offices and told to work from home. There's no eating out, no recreational shopping and no hanging with friends. Almost all events are canceled, and no one can travel. There's not even live sports on TV.

Of the many questions this extreme situation raises, one will have to wait several months for an answer: Should we expect a coronavirus baby boom?

A surprising amount of research has been done on the subject of post-disaster fertility. The headline hypothesis is fairly straightforward: With other activity curtailed, couples have more opportunity — and perhaps more desire — for intimacy. Nine months later, the babies show up.

This theory was behind a series of articles published by The New York Times in the aftermath of the great New York City blackout of November 1965. When several local hospitals registered an increase in births starting in August 1966, the Times attributed the spike to how the infants' parents kept busy when the lights went out.

Sociologist J. Richard Udry wanted to test the assumption for himself, and in 1970 published his findings. As it turned out, upon reviewing the citywide data, Udry found no statistically significant increase

or decrease in the number of conceptions during the blackout. Yet ever since, each new disaster seems to have brought reports of a new surge in births.

If lack of alternative entertainment doesn't spur a COVID-19 baby boom, might the widespread calls to come together for the sake of our civilization inspire people to start working on the next generation? This "banding together" theory was one of the main explanations in a 2005 study showing an increase in births in the counties surrounding Oklahoma City after the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. When a population unites around a common goal, people feel more ownership of the future. We might therefore expect more baby-making to result from the nationwide campaign against the coronavirus.

On the other hand, it is unlikely Americans will be feeling frisky when suffering from the virus's symptoms. And even if individuals are not infected, this highly contagious disease has prompted an aversion to any contact closer than an elbow bump. How, then, should we think about the probability of an increase in the intimate contact required for conception?

In 2010, I published a study with co-authors Yingyao Hu and Zhong Zhao that tried to measure whether baby booms result from hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. We had read of anecdotal evidence suggest-

ing births increased in Florida after the devastating 2004 storm season. And we thought this coastal region was the perfect laboratory for examining people's proclivity for procreation. We had data on many storms over a multiyear period. We studied a diverse set of mothers, from several income levels, education levels, races and marital statuses. This area also experienced storms at different levels of severity — tropical storm watches, tropical storm warnings, hurricane watches and hurricane warnings — lasting for different durations. In short, it was an ideal data set.

Our research yielded two different, but intuitive, results. For low-level storm advisories such as tropical storm watches, we measured a positive and statistically significant effect on births nine months later. An extra 24 hours of tropical storm watch advisory resulted in a 2% increase in births. This is evidence of the old New York City blackout hypothesis: When the lights go out, stores are closed and TVs are off, we make more babies.

On the flip side, we also found that an extra 24 hours of the most severe advisory — hurricane warning — resulted in a 2% decline in births. You can't make babies if you're running for your life. As catastrophic advisories went from less severe to more severe, the effect of births went from positive to negative. However, even at both extremes, a 2% change in monthly births in the average county is equivalent

to only one or two extra (or fewer) births — a change that could easily go unnoticed.

Given all the previous evidence on how different types of catastrophes affect our fertility, it seems likely that we can expect a small increase in births as a result of the coronavirus. For now, most people are home, not suffering from COVID-19. We are more focused on community and the preservation of ourselves and others. This is analogous to the low-level storm advisory effect, or the situation existing in the Oklahoma City study. Of course, those infected with the disease are experiencing a more severe catastrophe, analogous to a hurricane warning — so we would expect those couples' fertility to be lower.

On the whole, it's unlikely that America will see a coronavirus baby boom — but we could see a baby blip. Nationwide, that 2% increase would mean roughly 6,000 extra births per month this winter, depending on how long the shutdown endures.

That's enough to suggest that people wondering what to do with their extra time at home to now might want to take in a long drive. There's no harm in working on that blanket or those booties. Come December, someone you know might need them.

Richard W. Evans is associate director and senior lecturer in the M.A. program in computational social science at the University of Chicago, director of the Open Source Economics Laboratory and president of Open Research Group.

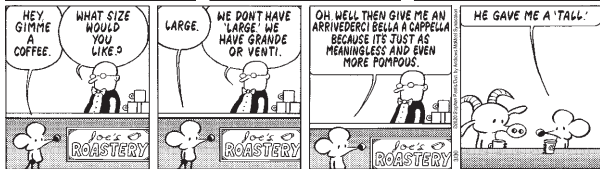
Frazz



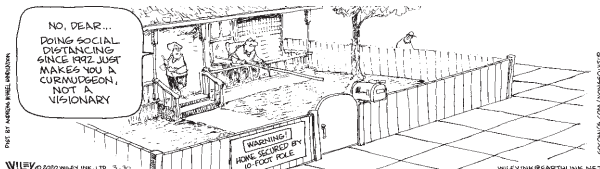
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



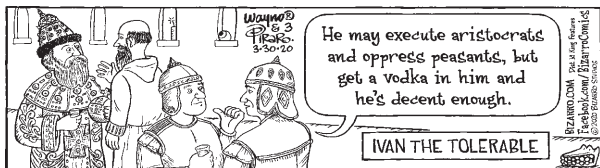
Carpe Diem



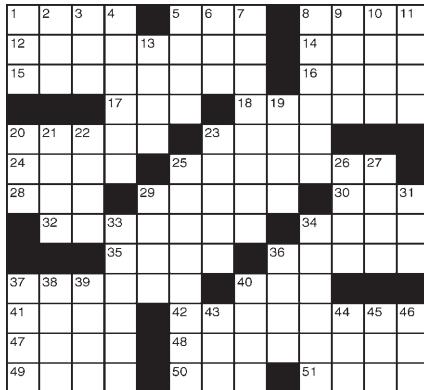
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Water, in Mexico
- 5 Previously
- 8 Sleek, in car lingo
- 12 Gathered one's strength
- 14 Streetcar
- 15 Unvarying price
- 16 Eat in style
- 17 Pitcher's pride
- 18 One of the B vitamins
- 20 Tennis star Becker
- 23 Garbage barge
- 24 Actor Rickman
- 25 Shows off
- 28 — chi
- 29 French people of ancient times
- 30 Ump's call
- 32 Nightgown fabric
- 34 Curved molding
- 35 Campaign-funding gps.
- 36 Raging fire
- 37 Polynesian island
- 40 Nourished
- 41 Concept
- 42 Gathering organized via social media
- 47 Bellow
- 48 Buffalo resident, e.g.
- 49 Catch sight of
- 50 D-Day vessel

51 O'Hara estate

DOWN

- 1 Canine cry
- 2 Solidify
- 3 "Born in the —"
- 4 Reach
- 5 Genesis name place
- 6 Belly
- 7 Audition that anyone can attend
- 8 When roosters crow
- 9 Rocker Clapton
- 10 Hindu royal
- 11 Portent
- 13 Messes up
- 19 Debtors' notes
- 20 Cave flier
- 21 Norwegian saint
- 22 Bar
- 23 Pivots
- 25 Imaginary
- 26 Forum wear
- 27 Canal zone
- 29 Pesky insect
- 31 Casual shirt
- 33 Beekeeper's place
- 34 Trite
- 36 Optimum
- 37 Ersatz swing
- 38 Big fusses
- 39 Pile
- 40 Speedy
- 43 Vinyl records
- 44 1959 Kingston Trio hit
- 45 Not 'neath
- 46 Bikini top

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-30

CRYPTOQUIP

VAFXRL KCIFF RAHXG VODV
HXKTPRFQ ZHXPQKPTF SHFKFQ
CI ITDGL, VADXQSDAFXV
ZXHFADT: ZHKD ZCKOD.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: YOU'RE
RECOMMENDING WRITING THINGS DOWN
TWICE TO AID IN RECALLING THEM LATER?
DUALY NOTED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F



MILITARY MATTERS



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Deals

Saturday's transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms with LB Edmond Robinson.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Announced exclusive rights free agent S Rolan Mililan signed tender.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed OL Dakota Dozier.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Re-signed OL Ben Garland to a one-year deal.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Re-signed CB Ryan Smith.

Pro baseball

MLB calendar

TBA — Opening day, active roster redraft, 20 players.
June 3-4 — Owners meeting, New York.
June 10-12 — Amateur draft, Omaha, Neb.
June 15 — International amateur signing period closes.
July 2 — International amateur signing period opens.
July 10 — Deadline for drafted players to sign, except for players who have exhausted college eligibility.
July 14 — All-Star Game in Los Angeles.
July 26 — Hall of Fame induction, Cooperstown, N.Y.
July 31 — Last day during the season to trade a player.

This Date in Baseball

March 9 — The Knickerbocker Dredgels holdentend the Los Angeles Dodgers announced the signings, Sandy Koufax got \$120,000 and Don Drysdale \$105,000, making them the highest paid teammates in history.
1992 — The Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox made a trade. The Cubs sent outfielder George Bell to the White Sox in exchange for Sammy Sosa and pitcher Ken Patterson.

Pro football

NFL calendar

April 17 — Deadline for restricted free agents to sign offer sheets.
April 25 — NFL Draft, Las Vegas.
May 19 — Spring opening meeting, Marina del Rey, Calif.
June 1 — Training camps open.
Aug. 6 — Hall of Fame game, Canton, Ohio.
Aug. 8 — Hall of Fame inductions, Canton, Ohio.
Sept. 5 — Final roster cutdown to 53.
Sept. 10 — Kickoff game to open regular season.
Sept. 13 — First full regular-season schedule.

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE														
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Atlanta	2	0	0	6	4	2	2	Atlanta	2	0	0	6	4	2
Montreal	1	0	1	4	4	3	3	Montreal	1	0	1	4	4	3
New York	1	0	1	4	4	3	3	New York	1	0	1	4	4	3
Toronto FC	1	0	1	4	4	3	3	Toronto FC	1	0	1	4	4	3
Columbus	1	0	1	4	4	3	3	Columbus	1	0	1	4	4	3
D.C. United	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	D.C. United	0	0	2	0	0	3
Chicago	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	Chicago	0	1	1	1	2	3
New England	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	New England	0	1	1	1	2	3
Orlando City	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	Orlando City	0	1	1	1	2	3
Philadelphia	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	Philadelphia	0	1	1	1	2	3
Vancouver	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	Vancouver	0	1	1	1	2	3
Real Salt Lake	0	2	2	0	1	4	3	Real Salt Lake	0	2	2	0	1	4
H.C. United	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	H.C. United	0	1	1	1	2	3
San Jose	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	San Jose	0	1	1	1	2	3
Portland Timbers	0	1	1	1	2	3	3	Portland Timbers	0	1	1	1	2	3
Nashville SC	0	2	0	0	1	3	3	Nashville SC	0	2	0	0	1	3
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.														
All games postponed at least until mid-April.														

Keeping fit is new NBA challenge

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Denver's players, if they're so willing, have the same assignment each day: Go to their phone or tablet, launch an app and view their individualized daily workout plan that was created by the Nuggets' strength and conditioning staff.

For now, it's the best idea Denver has — as it, like every other NBA team, is figuring out new ways to do almost everything.

Nobody knows when NBA players will be in a game again, with the season on hold because of the global coronavirus pandemic. Most don't even have access to basketball courts right now, and every team training facility is shuttered right now for safety reasons. Public health clubs and gyms are off-limits, too.

But the workouts, somehow, continue. Teams cannot mandate that players take part, but common sense dictates that players still get some sort of workout plan to follow.

"It's a very interesting subject," said Claus Antunes de Souza, the Nuggets' assistant strength and conditioning coach. "Keeping an athlete motivated when they don't know when they're going to perform is probably one of the hardest tasks ever. Even in an off-season you kind of have a defined date when you're going to report back. So not having one of those dates in mind, it makes things very tricky."

The Nuggets get their workouts to players on a platform called Teambuildr, a site where remote workouts can be programmed and progress can be tracked. The site says a half-dozen NBA teams are using its technology, with Oklahoma City, Houston, Charlotte, Minnesota and Detroit being the others — along with some Major League Baseball, NHL and NFL teams.

Other teams are figuring out their own methods: Kevin Huertel said he's using PaceTime with members of the Atlanta Hawks' staff when he's working out in his basement. The Orlando Magic plan to start utilizing PaceTime to monitor player workouts in the next few days. Zoom, a video con-



DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard and other NBA players need to be inventive to stay in shape with many of them sheltering in place, with little access to gyms and basketball courts.

ferencing tool, is being used by some teams for workouts where players are together — virtually, anyway.

"I've got a bike here at home now, I've got some weights here, so I wake up and I do what I've got to do," said Magic forward Jonathan Isaac, who has been working his way back from a knee injury. "I've still been able to progress in my rehab through this thing and you do what you have to do. That's kind of what we're all doing right now."

Magic high performance director David Tenney sent plans to players as well, plus reminded them about the importance of continuing to value nutrition — with an eye on both their physical and mental health.

"While we often recommend lean meats (like fish and chicken) and vegetables for our guys all season, this is a period when it may be even more important," Tenney said.

The NBA has allowed teams to send equipment to players' homes for workout purposes during the shutdown, and it appears most if not all have taken advantage. Miami's Kendrick Nunn showed off a newly delivered bike at his home in a social-media post, and the Heat are among the teams gathering online in small groups

while their daily cardio gets done.

Boston Celtics coach Brad Stevens said Friday that his team is doing something similar through what he called "voluntary virtual sessions."

"There's been bikes delivered, there's been individual weights delivered," Stevens said on a call with Celtics' beat writers.

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers has been self-isolating at home for the last two weeks, part of the process his team had to go through after two players tested positive for the coronavirus. James is one of the more fortunate NBA shut-ins; his Brentwood estate has a gym, and James has been going through once- or twice-daily workouts for most of this hiatus. But he hasn't been playing basketball, and that's a big difference between now and the 2011 NBA lockout — since then, at least courts were available.

"My body was like, 'Hey man, what the hell is going on?'" James said this week on the "Road Trippin'" podcast on the Uninterrupted platform. "It's March 13. You're getting ready for the playoffs. Why are you shutting down right now? And I was right there turning the corner. I felt like I was rounding third base, getting

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	18	.715	—
Boston	43	21	.672	3
Philadelphia	39	25	.608	7½
Brooklyn	30	34	.469	16
New York	21	45	.318	26
Southeast Division				
Miami	41	24	.631	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11
Washington	24	40	.375	16½
Charlotte	32	42	.354	18
Atlanta	20	47	.299	22
Central Division				
Milwaukee	53	12	.815	—
Indiana	29	26	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31
Detroit	20	46	.303	33½
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Juarez	40	27	.597	1½
Memphis	32	33	.492	8½
New Orleans	27	36	.438	12
San Antonio	27	36	.429	12½
Northwest Division				
Denver	41	23	.643	1½
Oklahoma City	39	25	.610	2
Portland	29	37	.439	14½
Minnesota	15	45	.257	23½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	49	14	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	44	20	.688	5½
Sacramento	28	36	.438	21½
Phoenix	29	40	.424	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

All games postponed at least until mid-May.

ready for the postseason."

His postseason-prep is on hold, like everything else in the NBA.

The NBA has said it wants to assume the season, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wants to see a playoff, wants to see a championship eventually be crowned. Most teams had about 17 regular-season games left; it's unclear how many, if any, of those will happen when and if play resumes.

Games are likely several weeks, at minimum, away.

So the good news is that teams have time to figure out the new normal.

"The priority is not, 'We've got to keep training as much as we can,'" Souza said. "Honestly, the priority is to make sure players are in a good mental space and know that they have support, that the team's going to do anything for them in order to help their development and continue to do so. And then we'll start ramping up once we know that we're getting closer to hopefully playing again."

Knicks owner Dolan has coronavirus

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

James Dolan, the executive chairman of Madison Square Garden Company and owner of the New York Knicks, has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Knicks announced Dolan's diagnosis Saturday night. It is not clear when he was tested or when he received the diagnosis.

Dolan is the first U.S. major pro sports owner known to have tested positive for the virus. He also owns the NHL's New York Rangers, along with other venues like Radio City Music Hall, The Hulu Theatre and The Chicago Theatre.

The Madison Square Garden Company Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Of-

ficer Jim Dolan has tested positive for coronavirus," the Knicks' statement said. "He has been in self-isolation and is experiencing little to no symptoms. He continues to oversee business operations."

New York has been the hotspot for the pandemic in the U.S.

All 50 U.S. states have reported some cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, but New York has the most, with more than 52,000 positive tests for the illness and more than 700 deaths. About 7,300 people were in New York hospitals Saturday, including about 1,800 in intensive care.

Dolan is one of the most polarizing sports figures in New York. Earlier this month, Oscar-winning writer-director Spike Lee

—one of the Knicks' best-known fans—criticized Dolan after getting into a disagreement with MSG personnel about which entrance to the arena he could use. Dolan has also publicly clashed in recent years with former Knicks forward Charles Oakley, and frustrated fans chanted "sell the team" at some games this season.

The NBA has been shut down since March 11, the night that Utah center Rudy Gobert became the first player in the league to have a positive diagnosis for the virus revealed. The Knicks played host to Utah — which later had Gobert and Donovan Mitchell test positive — on March 4 and played host to Detroit on March 8. Pistons center Christian Wood also later tested positive for the virus.

COLLEGE SPORTS/NHL/NFL



JOSE F. MORENO, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

Virginia's Dox Aitken, left, tries to hold off Yale's Jon Danigellis during the NCAA college men's Division I lacrosse championship in Philadelphia last May. The NCAA Division I Council is scheduled Monday to vote on providing another year of eligibility to spring sports athletes, such as baseball, softball and lacrosse players, who had their seasons wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

NCAA weighs more eligibility for sports cut short by virus

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The NCAA Division I Council is scheduled to vote Monday on whether to allow another year of eligibility for spring sport athletes such as baseball, softball and lacrosse players, who had their seasons wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

Providing similar relief to winter sport athletes, such as basketball and hockey players and wrestlers, will also be considered. According to a memo recently sent to college sports administrators from the NCAA, there does not appear to be support for that.

"(Winter) sports had either concluded their regular-season competition or substantially concluded their regular-season competition," said the memo. Division II has approved legislation to provide an extra season of eligibility and financial aid for its spring sport athletes, according to the memo.

Around Division I, conference-level discussions on restoring eligibility have been ongoing.

The Restoring I Council has representatives from

all 32 conferences. After it votes, the Division I Board of Directors, made up of mostly university presidents and chancellors, will have the opportunity to weigh in and could kick it back to the council for further consideration.

While there is momentum toward giving spring athletes another year of eligibility, there are plenty of administrators with reservations.

"I know I could capably argue either side of it," Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said Thursday during a conference call with reporters.

NCAA bylaws regarding scholarship limits would have to be worked around.

Bowlsby said with so much unknown regarding the outbreak and when sports will be able to resume, delaying a decision on giving back eligibility might be the best option.

"I worry that with the uncertainty of our current circumstances, we might find ourselves with a disruption in the fall or winter next year due to a rebound in the coronavirus," he said. "If we have that sort of disruption again, then we are going to offer fall-sport athletes another year?"

Wisniewski thrilled to return to Pittsburgh

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Six months ago, Stefan Wisniewski's Sundays consisted of spending the afternoon watching the NFL on TV wondering if his phone was ever going to ring. The veteran offensive lineman tried not to fixate on the circumstances that led to him sitting on the couch.

"You try not to drive yourself crazy with the why," Wisniewski said. "I've kind of learned to not go crazy, trying to figure out why everything is happening."

So Wisniewski relied on his faith to get him through, optimistic an opportunity would eventually come. It ended up working better than he ever imagined.

And in February, Wisniewski was on the field earning his second Super Bowl ring in three years while starting for the Kansas City Chiefs. This week his nomadic and recently charmed journey through the NFL finally led him home when the Pittsburgh native signed a two-year deal to join the Steelers.

Though the Chiefs expressed interest in keeping the 31-year-old Wisniewski, the opportunity to play for the team he grew up watching was too good to pass up. He'll be vying for a chance to replace the recently retired Ramon Foster at left guard.

"I knew it'd be an open job and that was exciting," Wisniewski said Friday. "It's even more excit-

ing because it's not just any starting job, it's a starting job for the Pittsburgh Steelers ... I did have a few other options but it's hard to turn down your hometown team."

Wisniewski grew up in the Pittsburgh suburbs and remembers scrambling home from church every Sunday during the fall in time for kickoffs to catch his favorite team. He played at Heinz Field in high school and daydreamed of one day joining his father Leo and uncle Steve in the NFL. Dressing in black-and-gold seemed to be a bridge too far. Both his dad and his uncle spent their entire careers with one team, Leo with the Baltimore Colts, Steve with the Raiders.

Ovechkin, Crosby favor NHL heading right into playoffs

By JOHN WAWROW
AND STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby prefers the NHL skip the rest of the regular season and head directly to the playoffs if games resume during this pandemic-interrupted spring.

Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin is on the same page, saying he'd even be willing to finish two goals short of his ninth 50-goal season, which would tie the NHL record shared by Wayne Gretzky and Mike Bossy.

"Of course, you want to score 50, but right now, like everyone is saying, the most important thing is to stay safe and to get this thing done," Ovechkin said Thursday. "It (stinks) not to score 50 and to not get another milestone, but you have to think about your family, people and fans to be more safe." The two Metropolitan Division rival stars shared their views Thursday during a video conference call hosted by the league.

"I mean, you try to get in as many games as you can, I think. But I wouldn't mind starting right in the playoffs," said Crosby, whose Penguins were third in the division standings when the season was suspended March 12.

Crosby acknowledged the more regular season games that can be squeezed in would be better for the integrity of the playoffs. Ovechkin agreed when he appeared on the video call later.

"For me, of course, the more games we play, it's going to be better for our fans and it's going to be better for teams fighting for the playoffs," said Ovechkin, whose Capitals lead the division. "But I'd rather start the playoffs right away."

Ovechkin then broke into a smile and said, "Sorry guys," referring to the other three players on the video call. Columbus Blue Jackets captain Nick Foligno didn't take offense and said: "Don't say sorry to me. We're in a playoff!"

The NHL has not said a timetable for when play will resume and it has not been determined whether the league will complete the regular season. There were 189 games left on the schedule when play was stopped, and each conference featured tightly contested playoff races.

In the East, Carolina and Columbus are tied with 81 points in holding the conference's two wild-card spots, with the New York Islanders (80 points) and New York Rangers (79) and Florida (78) all in contention. Teams have not played an equal number of games, with the Islanders hav-

Scoreboard

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	70	44	14	12	100	227	174
Tampa Bay	70	43	21	6	92	245	195
Toronto	70	36	25	9	81	238	227
Florida	69	35	26	8	78	231	228
Montreal	71	31	31	9	71	212	221
Buffalo	69	30	31	8	68	195	217
Ottawa	71	25	34	12	62	191	245
Detroit	71	17	49	5	39	145	267

Metropolitan Division

Washington	69	41	20	5	89	240	115
Philadelphia	69	41	21	7	89	232	196
Pittsburgh	69	40	23	6	86	224	196
Carolina	68	38	25	5	81	222	193
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187
N.Y. Islanders	68	35	23	10	80	192	193
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	28	5	79	234	222
New Jersey	69	28	37	13	68	189	220

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

St. Louis	71	42	19	10	94	225	193
Colorado	70	42	20	8	92	237	191
Dallas	69	37	24	8	82	180	177
Winnipeg	71	37	28	6	80	216	203
Nashville	69	35	26	8	78	215	217
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220
Chicago	70	32	30	8	72	212	218

Pacific Division

Vegas	71	39	24	8	86	227	211
Edmonton	71	37	25	9	83	225	217
Calgary	70	36	27	7	79	210	215
Vancouver	69	36	27	6	78	228	217
Arizona	70	33	29	8	74	195	187
Anaheim	71	29	33	9	67	187	226
Los Angeles	70	29	35	6	64	178	212
San Jose	70	29	36	5	63	182	226
All games postponed at least until							

All games postponed at least until early May.

ing played 68 to Columbus' 70 and would be in over the Blue Jackets if decided by points percentage.

In the West, Winnipeg (80 points) and Nashville (78) hold the conference's two wild-card spots, with the Predators having the edge over Vancouver despite being tied in points. Nashville and Calgary — not Winnipeg — would be in if determined by points percentage.

With the season on hold, players have been told to self-isolate until at least April 4.

Three NHL players have tested positive for the virus: two with Ottawa and the third with Colorado.

Each of the eight players spoke Thursday from their respective homes, with New Jersey Devils defenseman P.K. Subban having traveled to Los Angeles to be with his fiancée, retired Olympic skier Lindsey Vonn.

The discussion over whether to complete the regular season had at least one amusing moment in highlighting the sibling rivalry between Carolina's Jordan Staal and older brother, Marc, who plays for the Rangers.

"Yeah, screw the Rangers," Jordan said with a laugh in noting the Panthers have the slight edge in the standings.

"But it's hard," he added. "You can speculate and try to decide what's fair. But there's always going to be someone who's (ticked) off about it. Whatever we do decide, let's hope it's for the best of the game."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

TOP 10
ALL-TIME

With no March Madness, The Associated Press is moving stories and historical pieces to help fill some of the void in college basketball. A panel of AP sports writers voted in March on the top 10 men's basketball games in the history of the NCAA Tournament. They are being republished because the sport has been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic. The following game story, from March 24, 1974, was voted No. 8.

No. 8

Streak snapped

Thompson, Wolfpack put an end to UCLA's long championship run

By KEN RAPPOPORT
Associated Press

By the numbers

NORTH CAROLINA State brought UCLA down to earth after seven straight national championships, beating the mighty Bruins 80-77 on David Thompson's crucial points in double overtime in the semifinals of the NCAA basketball playoffs Saturday.

Inspired by a screaming throng of 15,829 at the Greensboro Coliseum, the top-ranked Wolfpack advanced to Monday night's finals against Marquette. The Warriors earlier beat Kansas 64-51 with a nine-point spree, keyed by Lloyd Walton early in the second half.

The game between the Wolfpack and the Bruins, billed as the headliner of the day, was everything that it was cracked up to be between the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 teams.

Bill Walton, who scored 29 points for the defending national champions, had helped the Bruins take a seven-point lead early in the second thrilling overtime period.

UCLA led 74-67 and seemed to have the game salted away when the Wolfpack players, with "Pack Power" ringing in their ears, went to work.

Monty Towse, the smallest player on the court at 5-foot-7, triggered N.C. State's rally with two free throws that trimmed the UCLA lead to 74-69.

Tommy Curtis scored a free throw for UCLA to make it 75-69 with 3:11 left in

7 Consecutive titles UCLA had won going into its 1974 tournament loss to N.C. State, the most in NCAA history.

88 Consecutive games won by UCLA from 1971 to 1974, when it lost a regular-season game 71-70, to Notre Dame.

SOURCE: NCAA.com, Associated Press

the game, but that was the Bruins' last hurrah.

Thompson then took over the flow of the dramatic game with a field goal at 2:55 that brought N.C. State within four. The crowd then went mad when Tom Burleson scored a field goal and a foul shot for the Wolfpack, trimming the UCLA lead to 75-74 with about a minute and a half left.

UCLA's Dave Meyers missed the first shot of a one-and-one free throw situation with 1:16 left, the omnipresent Thompson sucked up the rebound and N.C. State had possession of the ball and the opportunity to end the Bruins' championship skein.



AP photo

UCLA's Bill Walton (32) falls over North Carolina State's David Thompson during the first period of a 1974 NCAA semifinal in Greensboro, N.C. North Carolina State ended UCLA's run of seven straight national championships, beating the Bruins 80-77.

The dazzling forward penetrated UCLA for the go-ahead field goal that put the Wolfpack into a 76-75 lead with 53 seconds left.

The shot pulled most of the fans out of their seats, and the crowd went berserk with the dramatic basket.

With 34 seconds left on the clock, the Wolfpack's home-state idol tossed in two killing foul shots that finally put UCLA away.

Walton, the nation's Player of the Year the last two seasons, played his heart out with 29 points and 18 rebounds. Thompson, another All-American, had 28 points and 10 rebounds for State, which won its 29th game in 30 outings this year.

Burleson, State's much-maligned center who played in Walton's shadow throughout his varsity career, scored 20 points and had 14 rebounds.

All-American forward Keith Wilkes added 15 points and Dave Meyers scored 12 for UCLA, 25-4.

North Carolina State wiped out an 11-point UCLA lead in regulation time to gain this revenge victory over the Bruins, who

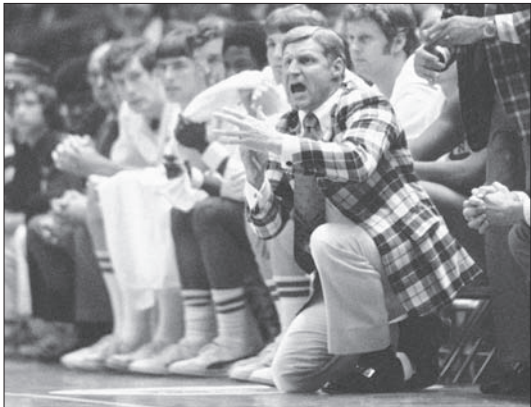
had handed the Wolfpack its only loss 84-66 in St. Louis back in December.

The Walton Gang had taken a 49-40 lead at the start of the second half, but the Wolfpack would not lay down. Behind Thompson and Burleson, N.C. State fought back to tie the score at 53-53 with 4:34 remaining in regulation time.

That man Walton once again asserted himself with a field goal that moved the Bruins into a 65-63 lead with 2:22 left, but Thompson, State's superman all season, tied the score with a driving shot at the two-minute mark and sent the game into overtime.

The first overtime was just as dramatic, although neither team was able to score much. Burleson and UCLA's Greg Lee matched field goals. But North Carolina State was unable to cash in on a golden opportunity with 15 seconds remaining and the super-powers went into the second overtime tied at 67-67.

Until this bitter loss, the Bruins had won seven straight national titles and nine in the last 10 years.



AP photo

North Carolina State basketball coach Norm Sloan gestures from the bench during his team's 1974 NCAA semifinal double-overtime win over UCLA in Greensboro, N.C.

OLYMPICS



DAVID JOSEK/AP

Justin Gatlin, of the United States, competes at the world track championships in Doha, Qatar last September. Gatlin will be 39 by the time the Olympics roll around next summer.

Old: Gatlin, Powell keep pace with 'younger guys'

FROM BACK PAGE

"It's pretty cool to know we can hang with these younger guys and still be competitive," Powell said. "And be ones to reckon with for the gold medal."

That's nothing to laugh at. Gatlin won a silver medal at the world championships last year. Powell, who's healthy after dealing with nagging groin strains and hamstring tightness, said he's still doing the same reps at the same tempo as when he was younger.

This won't be easy for the 30-somethings. American Christian Coleman won the 100 last season at the world championships in Doha and his teammate, Noah Lyles, took the 200. Canada's Andre De Grasse earned medals in both, and some consider him, not Gatlin or Powell, the prime challenger. None will have reached their 27th birthday by the time the starting gun goes off in Tokyo.

"They're very talented," Gatlin said. "But sprinting also comes with understanding and learning and wisdom and some patience. Those are all qualities you get as you get older."

Life has changed for Gatlin, as it has for everyone, since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the shutdown of gyms and training facilities across the country. He's been squeezing in training sessions on the grass in Clermont, Fla., and watching plenty of shows on Netflix.

And yet, there's so much that hasn't changed.

Gatlin has never really talked much about retirement, so there was never an assumption that he'd be done, even after the 2020 Olympics were over. He thought maybe

he'd hang on for 2021, when the world championships were supposed to take place in Oregon — the first time they'd been contested on American soil. It would have been a fitting send-off. But now, maybe that meet won't happen until 2022.

Those questions aside, Gatlin has a little more certainty in knowing he doesn't have to prepare for Olympic trials in June or the Olympic track meet, which would've started in August.

"It's now business as usual," said Gatlin, who returned to track in 2010 after a four-year doping ban. "I don't think a year is going to change anything. ... I'm just going to rest as much as I can."

That's the same blueprint for Powell, who was the most beloved male sprinter in Jamaica before Bolt — and maybe during Bolt's reign, too.

"It is different not having (Bolt) around," said Powell, who tested positive for a stimulant in June 2013 and received a ban that was reduced on appeal to six months by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He later sued the manufacturer of the supplement and settled out of court. "He's just a superstar."

Despite his world-record speed, Powell's still missing an individual gold medal at either the Olympics or world championships.

Could 2021 be the year he finally breaks through?

Only time will tell.

"I think it will be exciting to just even try," Powell said of prolonging his career. "Just the challenge and knowing I have a long time to work on certain aspects of my game."

Signs suggest summer dates for 2021 Games

BY STEPHEN WADE

Associated Press

TOKYO — Tokyo Olympic organizers seem to be leaning away from starting the rescheduled games in the spring of 2021. More and more the signs point toward the summer of 2021.

Organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori suggested there would be no major change from 2020.

"The games are meant to be in summer, so we should be thinking of a time between June and September," Japanese news agency Kyodo reported Mori saying on Saturday.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, after the postponement was announced

in Switzerland on Tuesday, left open the possibility of spring dates.

The postponed games were to have opened on July 24 and closed on Aug. 9. Mori suggested some decisions could be made as early as this week when the organizing committee's executive board meets.

Any final decision will be made by local organizers and the IOC, and hundreds of sponsors, sports federations and broadcasters.

Athletes have been left in limbo by the postponement. Many have been forced to stop training because of the spreading coronavirus. Even those who can train have no idea about how to schedule training to reach peak fitness at the right time.

Mori and organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto have both said the added cost of rescheduling will be "enormous." Early estimates put those costs at between \$2 billion-\$3 billion with the several levels of Japanese governments likely to foot most of the bills.

Tokyo organizers say they are spending \$12.6 billion to stage the games. However, a government audit report said it will cost at least twice that much. All but \$5.6 billion is public money.

The Switzerland-based IOC has contributed \$1.3 billion to organize the Tokyo Olympics, according to local organizing committee documents. It has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion for such emergencies and also has insurance coverage.

Who pays for another year?

BY STEPHEN WADE

Associated Press

TOKYO — With the Tokyo Olympics postponed until 2021, now comes the multi-billion-dollar question: Who pays the bills for the delay, and how large will they be?

The most likely answer is — primarily Japanese taxpayers.

"Of course there will be costs," organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto said when the postponement was announced. "As for how much, we have no figures with us right now. As for who will shoulder these costs? Needless to say, they are not going to be easy discussions, so we are not sure how long they will take."

The Japanese financial newspaper Nikkei put the added cost at \$2.7 billion, citing an estimate from local organizers.

Tokyo organizers will have to renegotiate new leases on venues, pay for maintenance at arenas, and maybe find different fields of play. They will also have to deal with real estate developers who are already selling off thousands of apartments at what will be the Athletes Village. The organizing committee also employs 3,500 staff members, and some may lose their jobs to cost cutting.

Tokyo, driven by advertising giant Dentsu Inc., has sold \$3.3 billion in local sponsorships, more than twice any previous Olympics. Those brands will be clamoring to know what they get for their money. Refunds? Make-good deals? New contracts?

And nothing much can be done until new dates are set to replace what was to be this year's Olympics: July 24 through Aug. 9, 2020.

"The general target is summer of next year," said Yoshiro Mori, president of the organizing committee and a former Japanese Prime Minister. "We have to go

through scheduling, international events. Many things will have to be adjusted before we come up with a certain time frame."

Of course, all of the rescheduling problems are compounded by the uncertain spread of the virus and the recent downturn in the economy.

Bent Flyvbjerg, an author of "The Oxford Olympics Study 2016: Cost and Cost Overrun at the Games," in an email to the Associated Press, said the IOC should share more of the costs and termed it a "monopoly." The study found the Olympics have the "highest average cost overrun of any type of mega-project."

Flyvbjerg said the IOC should "pick up a larger part of the bill for the games, which the IOC profits from. Tokyo and Japan will pick up the added cost, unless the IOC makes an exception and expands the reserve fund, which is what the IOC should do from an ethics point of view."

Tokyo was planning to use 42 venues for 33 sports. One extra venue was planned for the Paralympics. Muto said it was not clear how many venues would be available a year from now.

"Some venues we might have to keep renting until next year," he said. "Based on some venues it takes about a year to get them ready. We can't take them down and then set them up again for the Olympics. That also means added costs."

The biggest headache could be the Athletes Village, which is to house 11,000 Olympians and staff, and 4,400 Paralympians and staff. The sprawling site on Tokyo Bay — 5,632 apartments — is to be sold off after the Olympics and reports say one-quarter have already been sold. Some cost more than \$1 million.

One of the developers, Mitsui Fudosan Co., said it has suspended sales at the complex, which will include 23 buildings.

Even lining up 80,000 unpaid volunteers again could be expensive and create more work. The city of Tokyo was also planning to use 30,000 added volunteers to help fans find train lines, street addresses, and dish out general help for non-Japanese speakers.

The IOC also has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion, and insurance to cover losses.

SPORTS



Postseason ready

Ovechkin, Crosby favor jumping into playoffs on restart » Page 21

OLYMPICS

Old guard

Gatlin, Powell hanging on for Games in 2021

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

Highlights of their very best moments are still available on compact discs, maybe even actual video tape. When teammates shout out, "Hey, old man" — well, they know that's directed at them.

At first glance, America's Justin Gatlin and Jamaica's Asafa Powell might seem like relics from a bygone age of sprinting. In reality, they're still in the mix — and not even a year-long postponement of the Tokyo Olympics is going to shut them down.

"I'm ready for this year," Powell told The Associated Press in the wake of the IOC's announcement that the games would be delayed due to the coronavirus. "I definitely have to be ready for next year."

Make no mistake, they are running out of time.

Gatlin will be 39 when the Olympics finally roll around and Powell, who turns 38 in November, will be steaming toward the same number. Both men were beginning to make a name for themselves in track before a young phenom named Usain Bolt had raced his first Olympics. Bolt, by the way, is 33 and happily retired.

Both Gatlin and Powell are "Jeopardy" questions just waiting to be asked.

The last man to win an Olympic gold medal in the 100 before Bolt? That would be Gatlin.

The last man to hold the 100-meter world record before Bolt? That would be Powell.

Gatlin won the Olympics in 2004. "Feels like five years ago," he insists.

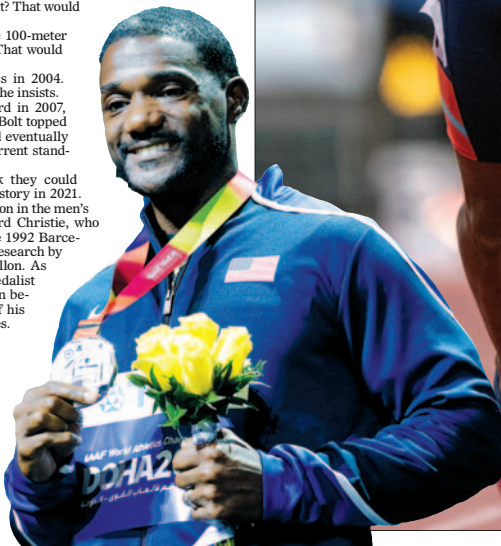
Powell set a world record in 2007, when he ran 9.74 seconds. Bolt topped it less than a year later and eventually lowered the mark to its current standing of 9.58.

Gatlin and Powell think they could make a different kind of history in 2021. The oldest Olympic champion in the men's 100 meters remains Linford Christie, who was 32 when he won at the 1992 Barcelona Games, according to research by Olympic historian Bill Mallon. As for the oldest Olympic medalist in the event, that distinction belongs to Gatlin, courtesy of his silver at the 2016 Rio Games.

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American Justin Gatlin, inset, and Jamaican Asafa Powell, right, may be late 30-something sprinters, but there's no retirement talk, even with the Tokyo Games delayed due to the coronavirus.

AP photos



TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

